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What's Ahead?

Today it's production, more production—and that is the only order of business until we have won this war; then, tomorrow, it most certainly will be distribution. Our private enterprise system must adopt an entirely new concept as it looks ahead to the problem of distribution. In the past, we employed just that number of people required to make the products we could sell. Tomorrow, we must sell our products in sufficient volume to keep gainfully employed every worker to whom we are obligated—and the sales organizations of American business must be responsible for such performance—they must succeed in distributing, as the production men have succeeded in producing.

James A. McLain

This is the big challenge ahead of us. It is the major problem of postwar days — and its solution

(Continued on page 1219)

In This Issue

Special material and items of interest with reference to dealer activities in the State of Ohio appears on page 1210.

General index on page 1224.

Inflation---The Psychological Approach

By DR. MELCHIOR PALYI, Chicago

The adage that "inflation is a mental state," expresses in a flippant fashion the truth that there is no mechanical relationship between the increase in the amount of money and the level to which prices may rise, no law that would tie them together in terms of definable or predictable ratios, or in timing.

Briefly, the link that connects the printing press with the bread basket is "psychological." Prices rise if and when the excessive volume of money is disbursed. And it is disbursed if and when the public, or part of it, is convinced that its liquid holdings **are** excessive — that prices **will** rise. This is obvious; but the elusiveness common in arguments on the "psychological" level invites more or less subtle reasonings to prove that inflation need not occur in the presence or absence of this or that element, which is supposedly relevant to mass-attitude. Such arguments, typical of every inflationary scene, merely confuse the psychological and the mechanical; they serve to assure the gullible, after the reasonings of a purely quantitative nature have been exhausted. Pseudo-psychology is as good a method of "kidding" oneself, as is the pseudo-mathematical approach to monetary problems. The two "methods" are of about the same age, too.

Dr. Melchior Palyi

Why We "Can't Have" Inflation

Quite a few such "psychological" reasons are current to con-

(Continued on page 1214)

The Rising Tide of Railroad Credit

By ARTHUR C. KNIES*

Partner—Vilas & Hickey

What a contrast to a year ago! At that time we were admonished to "take it easy" and "not be so bold." Our prophecies on the forthcoming Supreme Court decision upholding priorities to the full and the change in public psychology regarding the rails were not considered as "conservative." The attempts to deflate the balloon of "insurance company liquidation" and hazard the guess that 1943 would witness large institutional rail investment purchases were taken with much skepticism, to say the least. Who are the buyers of Erie and Wabash First 4s now? Trust accounts largely—being forced to come back into the field only a few years after "We'll never buy a rail again!" The next step is the banks' own portfolios.

Arthur C. Knies

Let's take a minute and quickly review some of the skeletons of public fancy—probably "infancy" is a better word—that 1943 put to rest.

Probably the first accolade should be to the roads themselves. "You can't keep a good

---

*An address made by Mr. Knies before the Central States Group, Investment Bankers Association of America, at the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., March 16, 1944.

(Continued on page 1216)

Post-War Prospects And Problems

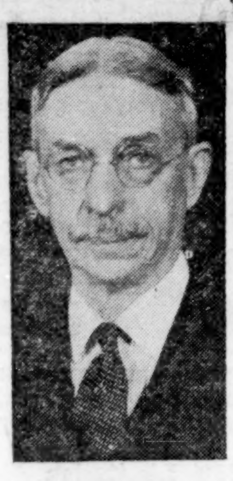
By PROF. WM. B. BAILEY*

Economist, Travelers Insurance Co., Hartford

Prof. Bailey Holds We Will Escape An Inflationary Rise In The Cost Of Living Because Of Our Tremendous Productive Capacity. Sees Danger Of Inflation Existing For One Or Two Years After End Of War. Thinks It Likely That General Price Level Will Be At Least 25% Higher Than It Was Before We Entered War.

Most of you, I think, are more interested in what we may expect in the postwar era than you are in the immediate present. You are pretty well aware of the opportunities to write new business that exist today. You know there's plenty of money in circulation and that men are quite willing to spend it for the insurance they need. Your problems are not so much where to find business, but how to get out and solicit that business or how to find the help you need to handle that business after it's written.

I think it is safe to say that there will continue to be plenty of money in circulation, some of which can easily be diverted into insurance, as as long as the war lasts. And I think that you will continue to have to wrestle with the war-created problems of taxes, transportation difficulties, lack of help and lack of time for the duration.



Prof. Wm. B. Bailey

But what's likely to happen after the war ends? That's the question that seems to interest most business men today. Are we likely to see a wave of depression? Will the problem of unemployment cause the Government to invade fields now dominated by

---

*An address made by Mr. Bailey, a former Professor of Economics at Yale University, before the twenty-fourth annual sales congress of the Life Underwriters Association held on March 9th at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City.

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Foreign Trade And Currency Stabilization Problems Discussed

Assistant Secretary Of Treasury Says Proposed International Stabilization Fund And International Bank For Reconstruction Development Would Foster Foreign Trade And Productive Investment Between Member Countries—International Bank Would Not Compete, But Assist Private Investment, He Says

Herbert E. Gaston, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Citizens Conference on International Economic Union at the Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., on March 4th said "that the woe and the disaster of war are so great that we ought not to add to them the peril of an unplanned peace, or armistice between wars, as destructive as the war itself."

Herbert E. Gaston

"In planning it is usual to think of alternatives, and we have them on the international economic front. One would be economic isolationism, but it would be easy to show that it isn't a workable alternative. We don't exactly know what was the degree of isolation on this continent prior to 1942; but we do know that isolationism has not been the rule since then. Nor could it have been.

"Probably no political unit on earth is so well fitted for economic isolation as the United States of America, so nearly equipped to supply all its own wants; but to accomplish it we should need a police force of unimaginable size, and the result would be an economic revolution internally. It is of course quite true that America is her own best customer, both for the present and the future, and that foreign trade accounts for but a small fraction of our business. But that small fraction has been built or has grown into the fabric and tissue of our economy. We couldn't cut it out without serious damage and

(Continued on page 1219)

Post-War Taxes

Outstanding among domestic post-war problems is that of taxation and the extent to which it can be reduced without jeopardy to Government revenue while maintaining a healthy free enterprise economy.

(1) Proposed 25% Limitation

There is a movement gaining momentum to secure an amendment to the Federal Constitution concerning taxes on incomes (both corporate and individual), inheritances and gifts. This proposed amendment would be the 22nd and would repeal the 16th Amendment, originally introduced in 1909 and made effective in 1913. It provides that the power of Congress to impose such taxes shall be limited to a maximum rate of 25%, except that in the case of war limitation could be suspended by a three-fourths vote of each house of Congress.

Two ways of amending the Federal Constitution are provided by Article V. One is by the adoption by Congress by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of a resolution proposing an amendment and the ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the States.

By the second method the action is initiated in the State Legislatures. If the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States adopt a resolution requesting Congress to submit the proposed amendment to the States, Congress must comply, and if the amendment thereafter is ratified by three-fourths of the States it becomes law.

Action by Fourteen States

The proposed 22nd Amendment has been following the second method since the movement began in 1939. Legislatures of eight States in their 1943 sessions passed

(Continued on page 1218)

Foster And Burghart With Hicks & Price

(Special to The Financial Chronicle)

CHICAGO, ILL. — Robert K. Foster and William J. Burghart have become associated with Hicks & Price, 231 South La Salle St., members of the New York and Chicago Stock Exchanges and other leading exchanges. Mr. Burghart was formerly with Mitchell, Hutchins & Co. Mr. Foster was with Shields & Co., Hirsch, Lilienthal & Co., Glore, Forgan & Co. and Brown Harriman & Co. in Chicago.

Warren A. Ripley Killed In South Pacific

Private First Class Warren A. Ripley of the United States Marine Corps, lost his life in the Southwest Pacific in service with the Marine Corps, according to official word received March 16 by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Ripley of Smithtown, Long Island, and 277 Park Avenue, New York City. Pvt. Ripley was 22 years old.

A graduate of Dublin School and a student at Bard College, Columbia University, he left to volunteer for enlistment in the Marine Corps in August, 1942, after which he trained at Parris Island, S. C. and New River, N. C. In the fall of 1943, he was transferred to active duty in the Southwest Pacific.

Surviving, besides his parents, is his brother. Lieutenant (j. g.) John C. Ripley, USNR, who is on active duty with the naval air force.

Private Ripley's father is Chairman of Harriman Ripley & Co., Incorporated, and Chairman of the Board of Cramp Shipbuilding Co.

Boston & Maine Preferreds Under Priced

Price, McNeal & Co. have issued a memorandum on the Boston & Maine Railroad Co. in which they discuss the remarkable financial improvement that has taken place in the affairs of that railroad and the sort of plan the railroad might adopt to simplify its capital structure in view of the fact that it is understood that some such plan is in the making.

Copies of this memorandum, in which the opinion is expressed that the Boston & Maine prior preference and first preferred stocks, at current prices are very much under priced, may be had on request from Price, McNeal & Co., 165 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y.

Pizzini And Tipton Become Members Of N. Y. Dealers Ass'n

At a meeting of the Board of Governors held on March 15, 1944, B. Winthrop Pizzini of B. W. Pizzini & Co., Inc. and Chester H. Tipton of C. H. Tipton Securities Corp., were elected to the membership of the Association. Also, the membership of Robert Strauss of Strauss Bros. was transferred to Abraham Strauss, and the admission of Fred J. Herrmann as a partner of Kurt Werner & Co. was approved.

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SEC And NASD Failure To Revoke "5% Rule" Alarming

Need For Curtailment Of Powers Of Administrative Bodies

Five months have elapsed since the National Association of Securities Dealers first promulgated its "5% spread philosophy."

In that interim a mounting tide of opposition to that rule has blazed throughout the field of security dealers.

Brokers and dealers are justly indignant because of several startling grievances stemming from this "philosophy."

Here are some of these grievances. The "5% spread philosophy":

1. Was the product of entrapment, resulting from findings of the NASD Board of Governors, based on a so-called "survey" which was neither authorized by its membership nor complete.

2. Was illegally passed by the said Board in violation of the NASD Constitution and By-laws which provide that action on rules shall be taken by vote of the membership. This rule was not submitted to the franchise of the members.

3. Was snidely characterized by the Board as an interpretation of an existing rule, rather than as a rule in and of itself, which it actually is, such designation being intended to evade the power of visitation and review which the SEC may exercise over the rules of NASD under the Maloney Act, and under the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the NASD.

4. Represents a twice delegated legislative power, the exercise of which is altogether questionable. Thus Congress has given certain law making powers to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which in turn has delegated some of them to the National Association of Securities Dealers. May a quasi-private organization legislate for the public?

5. Is an unwarranted and illegal attempt to modify, by

(Continued on page 1220)

Peltason, Tenenbaum To Be A Partnership

(Special to The Financial Chronicle)

ST. LOUIS, MO. — Peltason, Tenenbaum, Inc., 320 No. Fourth Street, will change the firm name to Peltason, Tenenbaum Company and become a partnership on April 1. Partners are Paul E. Peltason, Ruth M. Peltason, Harry Tenenbaum, Bernice Tenenbaum, Herbert J. Klein, and Richard A. Steinmetz, all of whom were previously connected with the corporation.

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More On International Bimetallism

By A. M. SAKOLSKI, City College, New York

Proposals for international bimetallism, along with numerous other monetary schemes, are again coming to the fore. They bring back memories of the monetary controversies of the final quarter of the last century. Mr. Francis H. Brownell, Chairman of the American Smelting and Refining Company last September issued a pamphlet (reprinted in the "Chronicle," Sept. 30, 1943) strongly urging its adoption. More recently, a pamphlet of similar nature, entitled, "The Place of Silver in Monetary Reconstruction," by Humfrey Michell, Professor of Political Economy, McMuster University, Hamilton, Ontario, issued by the Monetary Standards Inquiry, set forth boldly the alleged advantages of a plan of universal bimetallism. And the President of the Swiss Republic, in an address to his countrymen is reported to have suggested a scheme of bimetallism as a remery for the evils of international monetary instability.

A. M. Sakolski

These proposals, however, have not as yet called forth much serious comment. Because of this, however, it need not be expected that the movement will not gain momentum, since the pressure to again "do something for silver," may, as in the past, become a serious and disturbing political issue.

Professor Michell lays down four proposals for an international bimetallic standard: (1) a fixed universal mint or legal ratio of silver to gold, agreed upon and put into effect "with free convertibil-

(Continued on page 1221)

Congress Must Encourage Venture Capital Out Of Hiding: Folger

President Of IBA, Urging Lower Taxes On Risk Money And Modification Of Securities Acts, Says 50 Billion Idle Dollars Are Immobilized Through Fear

By J. CLIFFORD FOLGER*

We've traveled a long distance since 1929. When trouble piled up in the early thirties, everyone went broke except the Government. People owed for everything, including the shirts on their backs. But what about today? Now, they've got their bills all paid and have more money in the bank than they know what to do with. Their primary interest is buying government bonds and winning the war, but at the same time they are building up the largest private investment reserve we've ever known. This reserve is the greatest postwar recovery force in the world. It's really remarkable that we don't hear more about these idle dollars. Tables are completely turned. The Government credit is straining with the war effort. Individuals hard pressed a few years ago now have more than $50 billions in their sock waiting to be put to work.

John Clifford Folger

If there were 10 to 15 million men unwilling or unable to go to work there would be leaders galore. The right answer answer would be given at every soap box. The problem would be conspicuous. There would be speakers and advocates—a hue and cry

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*An address by Mr. Folger, of Folger, Nolan & Co., Washington, D. C., President of the Investment Bankers Association of America, before the Ninth Annual Conference of the Central States Group of the Association in Chicago on March 16, 1944.

(Continued on page 1221)

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Current Problems And Their Effect On Post-War Municipal Financing

Noted Municipal Bond Counsel Says Needed Improvements Will Require Outlay Of Between $2 and $3 Billions—Predicts Wider Use Of Revenue Bond As Many Localities Will Not Be Able To Incur Additional General Obligations Debt Due To Exhaustion Of Borrowing Capacity, Etc.

By DAVID M. WOOD*

We are, today, one day nearer the end of the war. I do not make that remark to intimate that the end of the war is close at hand, but merely to emphasize the fact that sooner or later this war will come to an end and the States and municipalities of the country will be confronted with many new problems. One of the most pressing of these problems will be to provide for the public works, the construction of which has been deferred since Dec. 7, 1941, and at the same time to make many additional improvements, which changed conditions will make necessary, almost immediately upon the termination of the war. The volume of public works, which the States and municipalities will have to undertake at that time, will undoubtedly be the greatest in our history. The States and municipalities, moreover, will be subjected to a great deal of pressure to undertake public works, which may not be so necessary, in order to aid in providing employment for discharged servicemen. I believe that the latter type of public works should not be undertaken unless the economic situation makes their construction imperative.

David M. Wood

It seems to be the current fashion to assume that peace will be a calamity, and that at the close of the war we will be confronted with the greatest emergency we have yet faced. The idea that peace will be something terrible is a new idea, but in view of the many other weird ideas, which, in recent years, have captivated the minds of men in this topsy-turvy world, perhaps we should not be surprised to find a widespread

(Continued on page 1222)

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*An address delivered at Municipal Forum of the Middle States Group, Investment Bankers Association of America, in Chicago on March 16, 1944. Mr. Wood is senior partner of the New York municipal law firm of Wood, Hoffman, King & Dawson.

What 200 Leading Stocks Will Do By Best And Worst Post-War Estimates

The Value Line staff has estimated the post-war sales and earnings per share of common stock of 200 leading companies under three different national income assumptions:

1. A national income of $135 billion (an optimistic assumption, since it implies almost full employment of the available working force of the United States).

2. A national income of $120 billion (which is moderately optimistic, in that it assumes that all but about six million of our working forces of 57 millions will be employed after the war).

3. A national income of $100 billion (a pessimistic assumption, since it implied unemployed of 11 million of the available working force of 57 millions. In 1932, by comparison, there were 13 million unemployed in this country).

In a special introductory offer, four consecutive weekly editions of the whole Value Line Survey are offered at only $5. Subscribers will receive Ratings and Reports on all the 200 leading common stocks (including 1944 earnings estimates and post-war earnings estimates under three national income assumptions); two Fortnightly Commentaries; a Report on the Value Line's Supervised Account; a Report on 37 Value Line Special Situations. Because of the fee for one month's service is well below the $85 annual rate, this offer is restricted to those who have not already had a one month trial within a year.

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POLLAK MANUFACTURING
CAPITAL STOCK

	1943	1939
Net Quick Assets	$8.00	$1.25
Book Value	16.35	3.70
Earnings	4.49	0.73
Dividends	0.75	0.20
Price per share	8¼	12

Analytical discussion mailed on request

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SEC Rules That Justice Department Has Right To Intervene In Pub. Serv. of Ind. Underwriting Case

The Security and Exchange Commission on March 16 dismissed the request of the National Association of Securities Dealers that the Department of Justice be denied intervention in the hearings relating to the action of the Association in fining certain dealers for violation of the price stabilization agreement in the Public Service Company of Indiana bond offering.

Last December the Justice Department was granted the right to intervene by the Commission, and since then it has filed a brief contending that, since the price stabilization clause in the underwriting agreement was a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the NASD was without power to punish its members for violation of this agreement.

The NASD objected to the Justice Department's intervention on the ground that it had not been served with a copy of the petition to intervene in the proceedings. It claimed that the Department could not appear as an interested party because it had no interest within the meaning of the Commission's rules of practice. In addition, NASD said that the Commission's rule did not apply in this case, because the proceeding was instituted under the Maloney Act and not under the general powers of the Commission.

In denying the NASD petition, the Commission said the argument pertaining to the Maloney Act was invalid since the act had been passed as an amendment to the Securities and Exchange Act and was made an integral and indivisible part of the whole statute.

The Commission stated that the kind and degree of interest required for intervention under its rules must be governed by the particular circumstances of the case. In this instance, the Commission said that any interest great enough to arouse the attention of the Federal body was sufficient.

Under regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, security underwriters, though prohibited from marking up prices to facilitate offerings or rigidly "pegging" market prices in aid of an offering, were permitted to fix the price at which syndicate participants could offer the securities to the public, so as to maintain an orderly market during the continuance of the offering. The regulation required, however, that all purchasers must be given notice of the stabilization operation, and, furthermore, a provision is made for the inclusion of the notice on the prospectus of the offering.

In stating its decision, dismissing the petition of the NASD to refuse intervention by the Justice Department, the Commission stated that "we may have to decide whether and to what extent the securities business in general, and transactions by NASD members in particular, are subject to the prohibitions of the Sherman Act, or the large body of case law pertaining to interstate commerce.

"It seems apparent to us," continues the Commission, "that the Department of Justice, as a public agency charged with enforcing the anti-trust laws, has a real and substantial interest in seeing that we are fully advised on the construction of the laws it enforces and in presenting its views as to the impact of Section 15a (of the Securities Exchange Act) upon those laws."

The oral argument on the case, with the Department expected to participate, will be heard on March 29 at 10 a.m. at headquarters of the Commission in Philadelphia.

Paine, Webber Co. To Admit Four Partners

Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis, members of the New York Stock Exchange and other leading national exchanges, will admit to partnershiip on April 1st, D. W. Chamberlin, John W. Corrington, Robert W. MacArthur and William Wegner.

Mr. Chamberlin has been associated with the firm as a resident manager in the Cleveland office, Union Commerce Building; Mr. Corrington is manager of the grain department of the Chicago office, 209 South La Salle Street; Mr. MacArthur is connected with the statistical department of the Boston office, 24 Federal Street, specializing in bonds; Mr. Wegner is a resident manager of the Milwaukee office, 605 North Broadway.

Rolland Barnum With Merrill Lynch Firm

(Special to The Financial Chronicle)

MILWAUKEE, WIS.—Rolland A. Barnum has become associated with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane, 710 North Water St. Mr. Barnum has recently been with the office of the Alien Property Custodian. Prior thereto he was an officer of Bell & Farrell of Madison, Wis., and was with the Central Wisconsin Trust Co.

Now a Corporation

M. A. Schapiro & Co. is now doing business as a corporation under the firm name of M. A. Schapiro & Co., Inc. Offices are located at 1 Wall St., New York City.

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Dillon, Read Syndicate Offer Debenture Issue

One of the few public offerings of motion picture securities to be undertaken in several years is being made today by Dillon, Read & Co. and associates in the form of $7,500,000 Universal Pictures Co., Inc., 3¾% sinking fund debentures due March 1, 1959, at a price of 99% and accrued interest. Proceeds from the sale of the issue will be applied to the payment of $5,018,000 principal amount of secured notes and the redemption at 102% of 5% convertible debentures, of which $2,000,000 principal amount were outstanding on Oct. 30, 1943, the balance of the proceeds to be added to working capital. To the extent that the 5% convertible debentures are presented for conversion, the cash required for the redemption of such securities will be reduced and the balance to be added to working capital will be correspondingly increased.

The debentures, which at the time of their issuance will constitute the sole funded debt of the company, are redeemable at any time as a whole or in part, at prices ranging from 102% until March 1, 1947, to 100% in the last six months prior to maturity, and at 100% through the operation of a sinking fund. The sinking fund is calculated to provide, by Sept. 1, 1958, for the retirement of all the debentures except a maximum of $375,000 principal amount payable at maturity.

We repeat our adv. of May 11, 1941

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Extend Mexico Loan

Mexican and United States officials on Mar. 2 signed an agreement authorizing extension by the Export-Import Bank of a $10,000,000 credit to the Mexican Petroleum Co. for construction of a high octane gasoline refinery at Atzcapotzalco, Mexico. Associated Press advices from Washington Mar. 2 reporting this added:

"The loan was extended to finance purchases in this country of equipment and supplies required in construction of the refinery.

"The loan agreement was negotiated with the cooperation and assistance of the United States Petroleum Administration for War and contains an option available to any agency of this Government to purchase certain quantities of high octane gasoline and other petroleum products up to Aug. 1, 1950."

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMON STOCKS

Black Hills Power and Light Company
Central Illinois Electric and Gas Company
Iowa Public Service Company
Jacksonville Gas Corporation
Missouri Utilities Company
Northern Natural Gas Company
Public Service Company of Colorado
Public Service Company of Indiana
Sioux City Gas and Electric Company
Southwestern Public Service Company

Bought — Sold — Quoted

A.C.ALLYN AND COMPANY
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Four Anti-Inflationary Factors

In reviewing the economic situation of 1943, Stephen M. Foster, Economic Advisor of the New York Life Insurance Company holds that "the United States appears to have made a real advance in the attempt to combat inflationary tendencies." He lists four corrective factors which have worked both to increase the volume of available civilian supplies and to decrease civilian demand, thereby creating anti-inflationary forces. The first of these is the volume of goods and services available for purchase and consumption. The production was actually greater in 1943 than in 1939, and was due to the fact that "American business rolled up its sleeves and went into action, and, as a result, the supply of goods and services available to civilians has been greater than originally anticipated."

Stephen Foster

The imposition of wage ceilings has been a second important anti-inflationary factor. "If there had been no restraint on wage and salary increases, individual income payments might have risen to a point where their inflationary effect could not have been compensated for by other anti-inflationary factors." The imposition of higher taxes and the tendency of the people to save more are the two remaining factors which counteract the trend toward inflation. "In 1939, the public put money aside into savings of one kind or another only to the amount of about six billion dollars a year. In 1943, however, government authorities estimate the total volume of all forms of savings to be close to thirty-four billion." Mr. Foster holds that war bond purchases and increasing amounts of life insurance are among the chief forms of public savings that help to combat inflation.

SEC Suspends Bond & Goodwin From NASD

Action Deprives Firm Of Privilege Of Obtaining Discounts From NASD Members For 30 Days But Otherwise They May Conduct Business As Usual

Bond & Goodwin, Inc., were suspended by the Securities and Exchange Commission from the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., for a 30-day period beginning March 24. At the same time the Commission discontinued proceedings for the revocation of the dealer-broker registration of the firm.

The Commission charged that the firm, through Maurice A. Davis, a salesman in its New York office, committed fraudulent practices in connection with the purchase of bonds of the Pacific-Atlantic Steamship Co. for its parent, States Steamship Co., Portland, Ore., between 1937 and 1940.

On the basis of a voluminous record taken in the case, the SEC held that Davis had subjected Bond & Goodwin to the duties of an agent for States Steamship in effecting the program of bond purchases and had agreed to restrict its compensation, in which he shared equally with the firm, to a stipulated commission of ½ point above cost or, in certain cases, 1 point.

The Commission charged that Davis repeatedly misrepresented the cost of the securities and quoted to States Steamship Co. prices which were greatly in excess of those at which Bond & Goodwin, Inc., bought the bonds, with the result that the firm received secret profits substantially in excess of the stipulated compensation.

William A. Smart, President of Bond & Goodwin, Inc., said that "our records indicated that our salesman was dealing on a principal basis in all transactions. The order of the Commission is indeed a surprise."

John P. Grimes Now With Bear, Stearns

(Special to The Financial Chronicle)

CHICAGO, ILL. — John P. Grimes has become associated with Bear, Stearns & Co., 135 So. La Salle Street. Mr. Grimes was formerly with Kidder, Peabody & Co., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Fred W. Fairman & Co.

Available On Request

Schenley Distillers Corporation have prepared an attractive booklet containing the first articles in the series they have been running in the "Financial Chronicle." Copies of this booklet may be had upon request by writing to Mark Merit, in care of Schenley Distillers Corporation, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

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Attractive Situation

Capital stock of Pollak Manufacturing offers interesting possibilities, according to a detailed discussion of the situation prepared by Raymond & Co., 148 State Street, Boston, Mass. Copies of this study may be had upon request from Raymond & Co.

L. H. Mitchell in Buffalo

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Lawrence H. Mitchell is engaging in a securities business from offices in the Genesee Building.

Associated Gas and Electric Corporation
(In Reorganization)

All Issues
Bought—Sold—Quoted

CURRENT ANALYSIS ON REQUEST

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Massachusetts Util. Assoc. Pfd.
New England Pwr. Assoc. Pfd.
New England Public Service
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Queens Borough Gas & Elec.
Other Issues Traded

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OUR REPORTER'S REPORT

The investment market has demonstrated quite forcefully during the past week the pressure of funds seeking employment. In fact the response to several sizeable offerings has been such as to encourage bankers to look forward to favorable reception for the two large public utility offerings which are scheduled to reach market early next week.

Most interesting, from a standpoint of funds involved, since it called for an outlay of some $32,000,000 by investors, was the marketing of a block of 704,121 shares of Chesapeake & Ohio Railway common stock for the account of the Alleghany Corporation.

Brought out as a secondary operation by an investment banking group this huge block of equity securities moved into the hands of investors within less than an hour of the opening of the books.

Not far behind for performance and results came the offering of 120,000 shares of common stock of Hart, Schaffner & Marx, clothiers. The response here was equally gratifying from a standpoint of demand.

And to top things off it develops that the 60,000 share block of Fruehauf Trailer Co., 4½% convertible preferred stock, brought out at 103½ late last week, evidently fell considerable short of filling investor demand. At any rate that issue is currently selling around 105 in the over-the-counter market.

Universal Pictures 3¾s

Public offering of $7,500,000 Universal Pictures Co. 3¾% sinking fund debentures is being made today by a banking group. Issue constitutes the company's only funded debt.

Proceeds would be applied to the retirement of $5,207,562 of secured notes, including premium, and the redemption of $1,893,000, convertible debenture 5s, due April 1, 1950, at a total cost of $2,022,660.

Breathing Easier

Bankers apparently were able to prevail upon officials of Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. relative to the advisability of setting a date for receiving bids which would not conflict with that fixed by the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.

At any rate, whereas it had been indicated that both companies would ask for bids as of the same day, March 27, next Monday, the Oklahoma company has selected the following day for the reception of bids for its projected issues.

Under the circumstances distributors who might otherwise find themselves in the winning groups for both issues will have a day at least in which to clear away their share of the first issue to reach market.

Michigan Consolidated Gas

From a last minute check up in investment banking circles, it looks now as though there will be only two groups in the field for the $38,000,000 of first mortgage 3½% series bonds and 40,000 shares of 4¾% cumulative preferred stock of the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.

But evidently the competition will be keen, none-the-less since it is now indicated that the line of demarcation will once more be clear as between middle western and eastern banking houses.

Those who have the feel of the market are satisfied that the undertaking is likely to prove a fast one. They make only one reservation, to wit, that the issues be "priced right."

Oklahoma Natural Gas

The projected sale of $18,000,000 of new first mortgage bonds and 180,000 shares of new preferred stock by the aforementioned company appears destined to bring out rather lively competition.

Four groups are known to have been formed to go after this business and quite naturally there will be plenty of calculation in buyers' offices between now and the time for submission of bids on Tuesday.

Thus, all told, next week promises the best run of business for the investment banking fraternity in a month or more.

Public Utility Securities

Associated Gas & Electric

The public utilities division of the SEC on November 27 recommended to the Commission approval of the reorganization plan submitted June 14th by Trustees of AGECORP and AGECO. Only minor modifications and reservations were attached to the staff report. Committees representing some of the numerous bondholders' groups objected to the plan, but due to its careful preparation by the Associated trustees (in consultation with many of the interests involved) it appears unlikely that these objections will carry sufficient weight with the Commission to result in the plan being scrapped. The recent strength in system securities appears to reflect Wall Street hopes that the Commission will give the plan its O. K. in the not distant future. The Federal District Court must also pass upon the plan, but the past record in the case appears to indicate that no wide difference in views between the Commission and the Court is apt to develop.

Completion of the plan would of course consummate only one step in the over-all program faced by the trustees. They have been anxious, doubtless, to hold the system together as long as possible during the period of heavy wartime taxation. In 1942, the filing of a consolidated tax return (instead of separate returns for the individual operating companies) permitted a saving of $3,400,000 and the trustees were hopeful of realizing $4,500,000 more if they were allowed to deduct unpaid interest on debt securities of AGECO and AGECORP held by the public. A heavy loss was also claimed by Associated Electric Company on its investment in Manila Gas, in the Philippines.

Obviously, questions relating to Federal taxes are by far the most important subject of research for any student of the Associated Gas system. However, disregarding these intricate tax problems, and using the consolidated system income account in the 17th report of the trustees of AGECORP, 1943 net income was $10,386,923. A footnote states that "deficiencies in earned surplus, specific orders of regulatory bodies, cash requirements, and arrearages in dividends on preferred stocks, etc., of certain subsidiary companies and the exercise of prudent business judgment by the directors of the subsidiary companies, are responsible for the fact that the major portion of consolidated income is not currently available to the AGECORP trustees." During 1943, AGECORP trustees "drew down" only $1,106,055 income from subsidiaries although they realized $2,776,456 from the sale of miscellaneous investments, debt payments, etc. Cash was largely used to pay off the remaining $3,790,335 loan from the Guaranty Trust, which will aid in the reorgnization.

The proposed "surviving" company will have a relatively small debt—about $15-20 million—and 7,500,000 shares of new common stock. While tax questions make it extremely difficult to gauge normal earning power, this may be estimated at around $10,000,000 after all interest charges, or $1.33 a share. Since the system is not accruing any excess profits taxes there will be no savings resulting from repeal of that tax in the post-war period, but there might be substantial interest savings from refunding operations. The bond refunding of the Florida companies was not reflected in the 1943 figures, and the Carolina refunding was only partially reflected. Savings in operating costs resulting from the various mergers and system streamlining may also improve earnings in future years.

The AGECORP 4s of 1978 are currently around 33. They would receive 30 shares of stock per $1,000 bond in the reorganization, making the equivalent price of the stock 10, or about seven-and-a-half times estimated share earnings. This would seem to discount fairly well consummation of the present plan. Further appreciation possibilities would seem to depend on completion of the NYPANJ simplification program, recapitalization of GENGAS, clarification of the tax picture, and sale or distribution of sufficient system assets to satisfy geographic integration requirements.

R. M. Horner & Co. Admits Eisenhut and French

Walter H. Eisenhut and Henry P. French have been admitted to partnership in R. M. Horner & Co., 30 Broad Street, New York City. Both have been associated with the firm for some time. In the past Mr. French was with Amott, Baker & Co. and Mr. Eisenhut was an officer of George R. Cooley & Co., Inc.

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BOENNING & CO.
1606 Walnut St., Philadelphia 3
Pennypacker 8200 PH 30
Private Phone to N. Y. C.
COrtlandt 7-1202

Report Pact Between Turkey And Germany

Istanbul, Turkey, Associated Press accounts March 20, stated that a new German-Turkish commercial treaty has been concluded that, according to the best information here, calls for an exchange amounting to 14,000,000 Turkish liras. The advices added that "under the agreement Germany will send medicine and industrial materials to Turkey in exchange for $3,870,000 worth of fish, $775,000 worth of tobacco and other products."

The foregoing is from the New York "Times" of March 21 which, in commenting on the advices, said:

"Washington officials expressed belief that the new Turkish-German trade treaty represented only a renewal of the trade agreement concluded several years ago and renewed every year.

"They said that in their opinion it represented no change in Turkish policy.

"Turkey, declared eligible for American lend-lease some time ago, has not yet concluded the mutual-aid agreement under consideration.

"In the meantime this country had been delivering lend-lease arms and munitions through the British and the Middle East to the Turks, but the flow was reported halted recently."

Trading Markets in

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B. & O. Cv. 4½s 60
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C. M. St. Paul 5s 75
C. M. St. Paul 4¾s 89
C. M. St. Paul 5s 2000
Chgo. Nw. 4¾s 49
C. R. I. 4s 34
C. R. I. 4½s 52
C. R. I. 4½s 60
Col. & Sou. 4½s 80
Geo. Southern 5s 45
Lehigh Vy. 4s 2003
MOP 4s 75
MOP 5s Various
MOP 5¼s
MOP 5½s 49
N. Y. Central 4½s 2013
St. L. S. F. 4s 50
St. L. S. F. 4½s 78
St. L. S. F. 5s 50
St. L. S. F. 6s 36
Seaboard 4s 59
Seaboard 5s 31
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BOSTON PHILADELPHIA
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Head Of NASD Says Majority Of Investment Dealers Laud 5% Mark-Up Policy

Fails To Say In View Of This Opinion Why Association Declines To Submit Rule To Membership For Vote

Ralph Chapman, partner of the investment firm of Farwell, Chapman & Co., Chicago, and chairman of the Board of the National Association of Securities Dealers, speaking at the meeting of the Investment Bankers Association's Central States Group in Chicago on March 16th stated that the so-called 5% Mark-Up policy promulgated by the NASD last October has been "accepted as a forward step by a very large majority of the organization's members." He added, "A small segment of our business is still opposed, and, while I don't doubt the sincerity of some of them, many of them are misguided or misinformed, and some are just unwilling to be convinced of the soundness of this policy."

Mr. Chapman said that he thought the investment industry was making the best contribution it could to post-war plans by following a program of "intelligent self-regulation."

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Baker, Weeks & Harden, 52 Wall Street, New York City, members of the New York Stock Exchange, announce that C. Edmund Fay is now associated with them in their investment department. Mr. Fay was formerly manager of the retail sales department of Clinton Gilbert & Co.

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Railroad Securities

Rail common stocks have been attracting an increasing speculative interest in the past few weeks. Except for a few instances affected by particular circumstances or news (such as Gulf, Mobile & Ohio and Alleghany), the price gains have not been spectacular, however. Many rail analysts see the recent steady strength as an indication that this group is at long last coming into its own, and consider that materially higher prices are in prospect before the year is over, if not in the immediate future.

The stocks of the marginal carriers have never given any considerable weight to war earnings nor to the more important consideration of the permanent financial benefits that have stemmed therefrom. Also, it is being pointed out that if general business is going to remain at high levels for a number of years after the war is over (a conclusion implicit in the market evaluation of the majority of industrial shares) the end of the period of substantial earnings for the carriers is certainly not yet in sight.

Some interesting comparisons may be made between the present price levels of leading railroad stocks and their 1938 market status, in the light of the intervening basic improvement in finances and credit standings of the roads. The following tabulation shows, in columns 1 and 2, the highs of 1938 and the closing prices of last week for representative issues. Column 3 shows, roughly, the increased equity of the stocks in the period 1939-1943, inclusive, measured by aggregate net earnings less dividends paid. Actually the equity in most cases has increased even more substantially than this as a portion of earnings has been used to purchase outstanding bonds at discounts for retirement. The last column shows the reduction in fixed charges between 1938 and 1943, based on actual accruals in the two years. This figure does not show the full improvement in earning power as the 1943 charges do not reflect the entire annual interest saving on bonds retired in that year.

	1938 High	Recent Market	Increased Equity	Reduction in Charges
Atchison	44⅞	68¾	$47.00	$0.87
Atlantic Coast Line	30	39½	59.37	0.66
Chesapeake & Ohio	38½	47¼	5.63	0.28
Great Northern	30⅝	32⅛	27.25	0.71
New York Central	21¾	19⅝	22.36	0.61
Northern Pacific	14½	16⅞	19.86	0.11
Louisville & Nashville	57½	90	34.40	0.63
Pennsylvania	24½	29¾	14.59	0.33
Southern Railway	23⅜	25¾	55.87	1.46
Southern Pacific	22⅛	31¼	48.06	0.95

The year 1938 was one of extreme pessimism towards the entire railroad industry, and from an earnings standpoint one of the worst in history. Nevertheless, with few exceptions the stocks listed above are not materially higher today than they were at the highs of 1938. One, New York Central, is actually selling below the 1938 high and three others are selling only about two points above the 1938 highs. Five of the ten stocks are selling at less than the mere increase in equity since 1938, even if the stocks were worth nothing at that time. Only two, Chesapeake & Ohio and Louisville & Nashville, are selling above the 1938 highs plus the intervening increase in equity.

In addition to the increased equity, the market apparently has preferred so far to ignore the basic credit improvement inherent in systematic reductions in fixed charges. Moreover, regardless of the duration of the war, and even if one adopts a pessimistic attitude towards general business in the immediate post-war period, there can be no question but that there will be a further increase in equity and reduction in charges in 1944 at least. As a final consideration, it is notable that only three of the roads listed were paying dividends in 1938, while all are paying dividends now. The three that were paying in 1938 have all increased their rates of distributions. With this background, it is difficult to arrive at any conclusion other than that a sustained upward movement of rail equities is in prospect. Obviously it is warranted and long overdue.

Pittsburgh Rys. Look Good

The current situation in Pittsburgh Railways System, particularly certain of the underlying bonds, offers attractive possibilities for appreciation, according to a study prepared by T. J. Feibleman & Co., 41 Broad St., New York City. Copies of this interesting study and also circulars on U. S. Radiator Corp., Jonas & Naumburg Corp., Fashion Park, Inc., and Oklahoma-Texas Trust, which are available to dealers only, may be had upon request from T. J. Feibleman & Co.

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Reorganizat'n Potentialities

McLaughlin, Baird & Reuss, 1 Wall St., New York City, members of the New York Stock Exchange, have prepared an interesting circular discussing the reorganization potentialities for selected securities of the Missouri Pacific System. Copies of this circular may be had upon request from McLaughlin, Baird & Reuss.

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Real Estate Appraisal Lectures At N. Y. U.

A series of 12 weekly evening lectures and discussions on the appraisal of real estate for mortgage lending institutions will be given by the Division of General Education of New York University in cooperation with the New York Metropolitan District Chapter of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers beginning April 5.

The lectures have been planned by S. Edward Kazdin, Chairman of the New York Chapter's Committee on Education, and Prof. Paul A. McGhee, Acting Director of the University's Division of General Education, in cooperation with an advisory committee consisting of Philip A. Benson, President of the Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn; William S. Norton, Comptroller of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; and Earl B. Schwulst, First Vice-President of the Bowery Savings Bank of New York.

The list of experts who will participate as lecturers and discussion leaders in the course consists of Curt C. Mack, director of the underwriting division of the Federal Housing Administration; H. Martin Tenney, Assistant Vice-President of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Frank D. Hall, chief appraiser of the Equitable Life Assurance Society; Robert H. Armstrong of Armstrong & Armstrong; William MacRossie, President of Ladd & Nichols, Inc.; John C. Tredwell, President of E. A. Tredwell & Co., Inc.; Dr. Homer Hoyt, director of economic studies of the Regional Plan Association; L'Huillier S. Sheaff, Vice-President of Cushman & Wakefield, Inc.; Maurice R. Spear, President of Spear & Co.; and Felix M. Davis, supervisor of conventional mortgages of the Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Topics to be discussed in the lectures include the economics of city land valuation, rates of capitalization, causes of neighborhood deterioration, and problems in appraising single family dwellings, apartment houses, office buildings, loft buildings and retail store properties.

The purpose of these lecture-discussions, according to Mr. Kazdin is "to foster improvement in appraisal practices in the hope that a review of the experiences of the building boom of the late '20s, as well as the lessons to be learned from the recent depression in real estate values, will make a substantial contribution toward better practice in mortgage lending and will more clearly define the responsibilities of the appraiser as a part of the general risk taking function.

"This course of lectures" he said " is designed to give the appraiser an opportunity to discuss the problems created by the war economy as well as the problems he will have to face in the post-war era with a revival in private building construction," Mr. Kazdin announced.

"SUGGESTIONS"
We will be pleased to make suggestions to dealers who are interested in the retail distribution of Real Estate Securities.
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Real Estate Securities

By JOHN WEST

Holiday for Landlords is indicated by refusal of the New York State Legislature to enact any ceiling for rents of commercial buildings. . . . Lack of space indicates higher rents for downtown New York City office buildings. . . . Prices of most of the office building bonds made new highs this week.

* * *

Hotel Earning Statements continue good. . . . 870 Seventh Avenue (Park Central) published year-end earnings before interest on the bonds of $516,930, compared with $229,081 the previous year. Interest requirement is $182,484. . . . . Victoria Hotel showed a net after income taxes of $181,579 compared with $79,930 in 1942 and $24,015 in 1941. There are only 4,019 shares of stock outstanding and no funded debt. . . . Savoy-Plaza Hotel announced that after all expenses, taxes and insurance and first mortgage interest, there has been earned in the 7½ months ending March 15, 1944, $543,162 compared with $96,905 for the similar period in 1943. The management stated that should relative earnings continue through the remaining 4½ months of this fiscal year, bondholders should receive a minimum return of $85 per bond Oct. 1, 1944.

* * *

An order has been signed permitting the Continental Bank & Trust Co. to distribute 15 points per $1,000 bond on account of principal to the bondholders of the Hearst-Brisbane issue. . . . Bank has approximately $780,000 in cash belonging to the bondholders of this $4,000,000 issue, which represents a first mortgage on the 36-story Warwick Hotel and several office buildings on 57th Street. The hotel alone is said to be earning over 4% on the bond issue. . . . Payment will reduce cost of bonds to price that compares very favorably with other hotel issues.

* * *

Anticipation of extra interest payments in addition to fixed interest rates on Broadway Barclay Office Building, Dorset Hotel and London Terrace Apartments have moved up their bond markets. . . . Extra interest payments on the Broadway Barclay and Dorset Hotel would mean automatic sinking fund operations.

* * *

Several reorganizations are drawing to a conclusion and should be completed in the following order: Harriman Building, Textile Building and 61 Broadway. The Bondholders' Committee on the latter issue has just announced that all parties to the reorganization, save the Securities and Exchange Commission, appear to be in agreement. New bonds on the Harriman Building are being printed and plan of the Textile will be mailed to bondholders this week.

* * *

Wall & Beaver Street 1st mortgage certificates on the 25-story office building at 67 Wall Street, currently selling at 45% and yielding 8.88% based on latest interest payments, would appear to be in a preferred position should the war suddenly end. The tenancy contains no Government leases.

* * *

If the Governor of New York signs the continuation of the New York State Moratorium Act just passed by the New York State Legislature, it will increase the mandatory amortization on open mortgages from 1% to 2%. . . . . Certificates of the Title Guaranty & Trust Co., Lawyers Mortgage Co., Lawyers Title Co., and New York Title Co. should benefit, inasmuch as many of these issues represent first mortgages running open on which 1% amortization is now being paid.

* * *

Attention of large interests in real estate securities is evidenced in the recent announcement that the Atlas Corp. had purchased $1,060,000 first mortgage bonds of the Sherry Netherland Hotel (Sherneth Corp.) during 1943. These bonds are currently selling at 41%. . . . You may recall our suggestion of these bonds on Oct. 8, 1942, when they were selling at 11% and again on April 8, 1943, when they were selling at 20%.

Situation Attractive

Herzog & Co., 170 Broadway, New York City, have prepared a memorandum on Bartgis Bros., which the firm feels offers an interesting situation at the present time. Copies of this interesting memorandum may be had upon request from Herzog & Co.

F. I. du Pont To Admit

Francis I. du Pont & Co., 1 Wall Street, New York City, members of the New York Stock Exchange, will admit John J. Neff to partnership in the firm shortly. Mr. Neff will act as alternate on the floor of the Exchange for George A. Whiteside.

Sen. Tydings Warns Of Danger Facing Nation From Mounting Debt

Unless the nation's mounting debt is curbed after the war this country faces another period of unemployment, economic distress and suffering, Senator Tydings told members of the Hibernian Society of Baltimore at its 141st annual St. Patrick's Day dinner at the Emerson Hotel on March 17. The Baltimore "Sun" in thus indicating Mr. Tyding's warning, further reported him as saying:

In the decade from 1930 to 1940, the Senator asserted, the nation accumulated a debt of $27,000,000,000, of which $13,000,000,000 was used for "routine" functions of government. When the war is over, said the Senator, a debt of $300,000,000,000 can be expected.

This huge debt, coupled with the fact that 20,000,000 persons in all probability will be laid off from employment, the Senator continued, will in itself become a grave problem for the country.

If "pressure groups" continue to look to the "magic Treasury" in Washington with success, and "we continue to live on the future; if the increase in the debt goes on, there will be no confidence in the stability of the Government and that will mean unemployment, economic distress and suffering," the Senator said.

He recalled that he is sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit Congress from appropriating money without levying the taxes to provide the funds, except in periods of grave emergency.

By next June, according to the Senator, "two thirds of the total assets of all the banks in the country will be invested in Government securities." As of today, he said, $15,000,000,000 of the cash reserves of life insurance companies have been invested in Government securities.

"Unless our national debt is put on a sound basis," he said, "the life accumulations of savings bank depositors and the investments of insurance policyholders are threatened."

Other speakers included Governor O'Conor, Michael J. Manley, President of the Bar Association of Baltimore; Bernard J. Flynn, United States Attorney, and former Mayor Jackson. Greetings were extended to the Hibernians by representatives of the St. Andrew's Society, the German Society of Baltimore, the St. David's Society and St. George's Society.

"Local Notes"

The Bankers Bond Co., Inc., Kentucky Home Life Building, Louisville, Ky., are distributing the current issue of their "Local Notes" containing interesting data on issues which the firm believes offer particularly interesting possibilities at the present time. Copies of "Local Notes" may be had from The Bankers Bond Co. upon request.

Situations Attractive

Eastern Corporation common and warrants and Muskogee Company common and preferred, offer attractive possibilities, according to memoranda prepared by Buckley Bros., 1529 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., members of the New York and Philadelphia Stock Exchanges. Copies of these memoranda may be obtained from the firm upon request.

Midland Of Interest

Midland Utilities debenture 6s of 1938 and bonds and certificates of deposit offer an interesting situation according to a memorandum being distributed by Gilbert J. Postley & Co., 29 Broadway, New York City. Copies of this memorandum discussing the situation in detail may be had from the firm upon request.

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Tomorrow's Markets Walter Whyte Says—

Recent market activity featured by inside selling and public buying—Expect minor dip followed by rally to last week's highs—Broad market outlook not good.

By WALTER WHYTE

If there is anything more pleasant than an advancing market it is to be right on top of it with a fistfull of the right stocks. For nothing is such a morale builder as profits, not to mention its effect on the brokerage account. Besides, a man with profits, even paper ones, can sit back in the customer's room and sound off pontifically on almost any subject, even if he doesn't know anything about it, and still draw an attentive audience. This same feeling of grandeur and well being unfortunately breeds within in the seeds of reaction.

* * *

Confidence is a nice thing to have—but not in the market. Markets have a nasty habit of lulling you to sleep and wham — turning around and socking the bejimmies out of you. And usually this socking process follows closely on the heels of over-confidence.

* * *

A few weeks ago when the Dow averages were holding to the 135-6 range, the subject of the stock market was usually mentioned with a doleful shake of the head. Stocks were going lower, lots lower, and to buy them was the height of foolishness. Despite the general feeling, this column persisted in recommending a list of stocks at specific prices. Now that the averages penetrated the upper resistance levels on a nice volume step-up, the general feeling has changed completely. No longer do you hear about how low stocks are going but how high. With one fell swoop all the uncertainties of the war and politics have been swept away

(Continued on page 1218)

MAJESTIC RADIO NEWS

"Standings of the Stars"

Bob Hope Heads List

Favorite of the camps and firesides, Bob Hope again takes first place in radio listeners' favor and for the third successive report is "Monarch of the Air." Fibber McGee holds runner-up spot, with Charlie McCarthy returning to third place. Fred Allen moves into the First Fifteen after an absence of several weeks.

Majestic Radio News No. 4
March 15, 1944

THE STANDINGS OF THE STARS

National Program ratings of your 15 Best-liked Shows from Hooper Radio Reports

PROGRAM	RATINGS	
	Present	Feb. 29
Bob Hope	1	1
Fibber McGee & Molly	2	2
Charlie McCarthy	3	4
Radio Theatre	4	5
Walter Winchell	5	6
Joan Davis & Jack Haley	6	7
Mr. District Attorney	7	11
Screen Guild Players	8	10
Jack Benny	9	8
Abbott & Costello	10	9
Aldrich Family	11	3
Take It or Leave It	12	14
Frank Morgan & Fanny Brice	13	13
Fred Allen	14	17
Bing Crosby Music Hall	15	12

Note: Red Skelton leads all programs broadcast after 10:30 PM E.W.T.

Ratings are based on 2500 telephone calls per hour made from 6 PM to 10:30 PM in 32 cities. Thus, several leading programs heard after 10:30 E.W.T. are not rated.

Sound a la Carte

Sound on cellophane may soon give you eight hours of continuous music on a roll no bigger than a large powder compact. A light beam may do away with needles. Or specially magnetized wire may produce sound simply by electrical impulse. But don't throw away your phonograph records yet. Until new recording methods prove as durable, more tone-faithful than the records you now use . . . until a library of recordings can be accumulated which allows you a wide choice of your favorites . . . present recording methods will continue.

Right now Majestic electronic engineers are planning, amidst the rush of war work, to bring you improved radio phonograph combinations when peace comes that promise the greatest ease of operation . . . the finest, clearest, most faithful tone you've ever known.

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MIGHTY MONARCH OF THE AIR
MAJESTIC RADIO & TELEVISION CORPORATION
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Know what the 200 leading stocks will do

According to the Best and Worst Estimates of Post-War Conditions

THE Value Line staff has estimated the postwar sales and earnings per share of common stock of 200 leading companies ***under three different national income assumptions:***

(1) A national income of $135 billion (an optimistic assumption, since it implies almost full employment of the available working force of the United States).

(2) A national income of $120 billion (which is moderately optimistic, in that it assumes that all but about 6 million of our working forces of 57 millions will be employed after the war).

(3) A national income of $100 billion (a pessimistic assumption, since it implies unemployment of 11 million of the available working force of 57 millions. In 1932, by comparison, there were 13 million unemployed in this country).

Before deciding upon your investment policy at this difficult juncture, when the difference between accurately informed judgment and guesswork may mean hard dollars to you, why not see for yourself the stocks that are cheap now in relation to postwar earnings. (Value Line postwar earnings estimates assume rescission of the excess profits tax but maintenance of the present 40% normal-plus-surtax corporate rate).

The impersonal Value Line Ratings, show the normal capitalization of earnings as determined by a 20-year correlation test. Now they are projected into the future on the basis of the three levels of future earnings coordinated to the three national income assumptions. The Value Line Earnings Estimates, issued long before those from other sources, have been unsurpassed for average accuracy.

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF what the future level of national prosperity will be.

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. . . the stocks that are overvalued now in relation to the postwar earning power that will develop

. . . the stocks that are now fairly discounting but not overdiscounting their postwar earning power

. . . the stocks that are still cheap in relation to the postwar earnings.

All according to your own conception of future national prosperity!

The 200 Leading Stocks and 4 Averages

on which the Value Line estimates 1944 earnings and dividends, and postwar earnings under three national income assumptions.

AVERAGES
The Dow Jones Industrials
The Dow Jones Rails
The Value Line Composite
The Value Line Utilities

STOCKS (with Value Line Rating)
Abbott Lab.
Air Reduction
Alaska-Juneau
Allied Chemical
Allied Stores
Allis Chalmers
Aluminum Co. America
Am. Airlines
Am. Bank Note
Am. Brake Shoe
Am. Can
Am. Car & Fdry.
Am. Cyan. "B"
Am. Radiator
Am. Roll. Mill
Am. Smelting
Am. Steel F.
Am. Sugar Rfg.
Am. Telephone
Am. Tob. "B"
Anaconda Cop.
Armstrong Cork
Atchison
Atl. Coast Line
Atlantic Refg.
Atlas Powder

Babcock & Wilcox
Barker Bros.
Barnsdall Oil
Bendix Aviation
Bethlehem Steel
Borden Co.
Borg-Warner
Briggs Mfg. Co.
Bucyrus-Erie
Bullard
Burroughs Add. Mach.

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Campbell, Wyant
Canada Dry
Canadian Pac.
Case, J. I.
Caterpillar Tr.
Celanese
Cerro de Pasco
Ches. & Ohio
Chrysler
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Colgate-Palmolive-Peet
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Continental Oil
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Crucible Steel
Curtiss Wright
Cutler-Hammer

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Dome Mines
Douglas Aircraft
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Link-Belt
Loew's, Inc.
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N. Y., Chicago & St. Louis
Niles-Bement-Pond
Norfolk & West.
Northern Pac.

Ohio Oil
Otis Elevator
Owens-Illinois

Pacific Gas & E.
Pan-American
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Philip Morris
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Pullman
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Radio Corp.
Republic Steel
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NOTE—*From time to time, in this space, there will appear an article which we hope will be of interest to our fellow Americans. This is number twenty-four of a series.*
SCHENLEY DISTILLERS CORP., NEW YORK

Judge and Jury

The verdict on the quality of a whiskey is always in the hands of the consumer; he is both judge and jury. He judges whiskey by its taste and odor. He likes the taste; the aroma is pleasant; and he likes the whiskey. His "verdict"—favorable.

Three fundamental production operations are responsible for the quality of whiskey: fermentation, distillation, maturation (aging). And, in addition to these fundamentals, there are the quality of the grain, the water, the yeast, and the barrels. If any one of these latter are not of the highest quality, the most precise controls of the processes of fermentation, distillation and maturation are futile. In combination they make a fine whiskey.

We don't think that you are interested in the nuts and bolts, and the plumbing of our industry, but we think you are interested in the easily understandable highlights of modern whiskey production. And we are quite safe in saying that in the years which have elapsed since Repeal, more scientific knowledge has been applied to the making of whiskey than in the entire period preceding. The Distilling Industry has kept pace with other industries.

Whiskey, today, is "package goods." In the old days, most of it was sold in bulk—in barrels. The dispenser did most of the blending himself, in his own way, which wasn't always exactly the right way. Today we recognize the fact that the blending of whiskey is a fine art, and skillful blenders are as rare as fine painters and fine musical arrangers. We searched the world over for blending genius and didn't count the cost . . . just to please the sophisticated taste-buds of the American consumer.

And, today, the maker's label—his name—is on the *bottle*, whether you find it in the package store or on the back bar in the tavern. There are some great names in whiskey. *The owners are proud of those names, and they hope you are good at* remembering.

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Statistical Ass'n To Hold Meeting

The Taxation and Price Division of the New York Chapter of the American Statistical Association announces a dinner meting on March 30th, 1944 at 6 p. m. at the Town Hall Club, 123 West 43rd Street, New York City.

The topic of the meeting, over which Rufus Tucker will preside, will be "How Much Inflation?" Speakers scheduled are Lewis Haney of New York University; Lincoln Fairley, United Auto & Aircraft Workers; Leo Cherne, Research Institute of America; Robert Sayre, Conference Board.

Members of the Program Committee are: W. W. Cumberland, C. Barton Cummings, J. Gebhart, F. L. Hayford, A. Hettinger, C. J. Lange, E. G. Nelson, H. Roelse, F. E. Richter, B. B. Smith, A. Temple, and H. Slade.

Cost of the dinner is $2.50 if paid by March 27th, $3.00 thereafter. Orders should be sent to Helen Slade, District Representative, 400 East 57th Street, New York City.

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Ohio Brevities

Stockholders of the National City Bank of Cleveland will gather at a special meeting a week from next Wednesday to vote on proposals by the board of directors to increase the bank's capital funds by $3,375,000 and reduce the par value of common stock from $20 to $16 a share.

Pres. Sidney B. Congdon, in a letter to the shareholders, stated the board proposed to sell 112,500 new shares at $30 a share and boost surplus from $5,625,000 to $9,000,000, equal to capital stock outstanding, and bringing total capital, surplus and undivided profits to $19,563,120 as of March 15. Issuance of the new stock would raise total shares to 562,500. The bank's reserves amount to $2,726,698.

The new stock will be offered shareholders of record Mar. 25 on the basis of one new share for each four shares of the old. Mr. Congdon said arrangements have been made with an underwriting group headed by Merrill, Turben & Co. of Cleveland, and Harriman Ripley & Co. of New York, to acquire stock not sold at $30 a share.

The letter said the reduction in par value of the shares and the increase in surplus would eliminate the necessity of transferring undivided profits to surplus and that the book value of each share would be unchanged.

"It would be the expectation of the board to continue dividends at the present annual rate of $1.40 a share. While, of course, no assurance can be given as to future dividends, earnings at the current rate amply cover dividend requirements," Congdon declared.

Deposits of the bank, largest national bank in Ohio, have climbed over $242,000,000 since Dec. 31, 1938.

* * *

W. A. Hiles, identified with Cleveland banking circles since 1919, is the new President of the Life Insurance Trust Council of Cleveland, an association of bank trust officers and general and associate general insurance agents. He is Assistant Vice-President of the Central National Bank of Cleveland, where he has been associated for ten years in the estates trust department.

F. L. Schweitzer of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co., was made Vice-President and Thoburn Mills, a Vice-President of National City Bank of Cleveland, Secretary. Treasurer is Warren H. Smith of Northwestern National Life Insurance Co.

(Continued on page 1212)

Ohio Municipal Bondholders Seen Protected Against "Surprise" Optional Redemption Clause

Having in mind court decisions of the past year or so, notably in the States of Arizona and Texas, which held that certain municipal bonds originating in those States were subject to redemption in advance of maturity, although the instruments had for many years been bought and sold on a non-callable basis, J. A. White & Co., Cincinnati, decided to secure some authoritative opinions as to the possibility of such a development in the case of Ohio municipal bonds. In response to their request, the bond house has been favored with the views of the two leading Ohio municipal bond attorneys, Messrs. Squire, Sanders & Dempsey of Cleveland, and Peck, Shaffer & Williams of Cincinnati.

Writing under date of March 17, last, the Cleveland law firm noted as follows:

"The decisions of these Western States are based upon a well recognized proposition of law that an act of the legislature under authority of which bonds are issued is an integral part of the bonds and any holder of such bonds is placed upon notice of the provisions of such legislation. This doctrine would be recognized in Ohio.

"Many States have a provision fixing a maximum maturity of bonds and providing substantially 'and shall be redeemable at the pleasure of the political subdivision at any time after ---- years.' The Supreme Courts of Texas and North Dakota, as an illustration, have held that this is an integral part of the bond and cannot be waived by the issuing political subdivision and is in effect although the bond itself is silent as to any callable provision. Other States, for example, Kentucky, North Carolina and Oklahoma, hold that such option may be exercised at the time bonds are issued and if the resolution of the issuing political subdivision and the bond itself do not call for early redemption the option has been exercised against such early redemption. The Supreme Court of Arizona has interpreted a power to refund 'whenever it can be done at a lower rate of interest' as making bonds callable, which is apparently an unwarranted extension of the above stated well recognized rule.

"The Ohio law contains no mandatory provision relative to callable bonds. Section 2293-6 of the General Code, which was part of the Uniform Bond Act, provides that 'A subdivision may issue bonds subject to call or redemption prior to maturity at not more than par' and goes on to provide that 'When a subdivision has issued bonds subject to call or redemption * * * the taxing authority * * * shall have power to refund such bonds at a lower rate of interest * * *'. This is clearly an optional power, the Uniform Bond Act clearly differentiating between the word 'may' and the word 'shall' in the various provisions thereof. We do not anticipate any likelihood of Ohio courts holding Ohio bonds callable unless the proceedings relative to their issuance provide for their being called.

"Section 2293-8 of the General Code, being part of the Uniform Bond Act, provides that the bonds themselves shall show on their face 'the resolution or ordinance under authority of which they are issued.' Such resolution or ordinance would therefore be a part of the bond and any holder would be placed upon notice of the provisions thereof and it is possible, although not at all likely, that some bonds might be issued without any reference to a call feature although the resolution or ordinance authorizing them provided that they should be callable. In such circumstances we would expect the courts to hold that the bonds were callable."

In a letter dated Feb. 24, 1944, the firm of Peck, Shaffer & Williams wrote as follows:

"We do not feel there is reason to fear that there will be any inclination on the part of the courts of Ohio to follow the decisions of other States in holding callable bonds of their municipalities which were previously considered not subject to call prior to maturity. . . .

"Furthermore, where the question of the right to call bonds has been raised, the courts of Ohio have not hesitated to protect the bondholder by construing the language of the bond form most strongly in favor of the holder and against the issuer, as witnessed by the recent case in Hamilton County where the bond stated on its face that it was callable on a certain date without reference to any later date, and the court held that the right of redemption should have been exercised on that particular day and since the bond form contained no provision for its exercise at a later date, unless it were called on the particular date specified, it could not be called prior to maturity. In view of the fact that the issue bore a high rate of interest and did not mature for another 20 years, the decision is an important one in that it demonstrates that our courts will not be influenced in such matters by expediency.

"Ohio always has been a conservative, farsighted State, and we feel certain that no opportunity to save a few dollars in interest will cause its courts to change a line of decisions which has been founded upon common sense as well as legal principles."

Ohio Municipal Comment

By J. A. WHITE

It's the same old story of rising prices and no supply. The Ohio municipal market, in company with the municipal market generally, is continuing the upward march of prices which began just before the turn of the year. The rise has not been startling, but it has been steady.

The White index of yield on 20 Ohio bonds has declined (with the yield, of course, moving inversely with the dollar price) from 1.42% on Dec. 15, 1943, to 1.34% at the middle of the current month. The strength in the market continues to be most noticeable in those bonds which still afford what at present is considered a "reasonable" return. Since the middle of last Decerber, the yield on the 10 lower grade bonds used in the White index has declined from 1.59% to 1.50%, while the yield on the 10 high grade bonds has declined only from 1.24% to 1.19%.

Floating Supply of Bonds Quite Limited

It has become monotonous to report that the supply of new Ohio issues is very low. Suffice it to say now that such supply is practically non-existent, and will likely be of little consequence until some of the larger subdivisions sell their annual refunding issues. What makes the problem more aggravated is the fact that today there are very few Ohio bonds in the hands of dealers. A recent canvass of dealer inventories disclosed that the Ohio bonds which dealers have on their shelves probably represents the lowest total in more than a year.

Recent sales of new issues would indicate that any good issue maturing up to ten years should sell at a worthwhile premium for a 1% coupon rate. Columbus sold a $75,000 limited tax issue due 1945-49 at 100.39 for 1s and Zanesville sold a $35,000 issue due 1949-53 at 100.52 for 1s. These prices are, of course, in keeping with the record low coupon rates at which new issues have been selling lately in other States.

Hudson Case Unlimiteds

Several years ago the Supreme Court of Ohio, in its well-known Hudson Case decision, held that bonds (not including, of course, purely revenue bonds) issued prior to Jan. 1, 1931 could be paid from taxes levied outside the 10-mill tax limitation for the reason the tax millage limitation in Ohio was not incorporated into the State Constitution until Jan. 1, 1931, and debts incurred prior to such date were not subject to such limitation on taxes to pay the debts.

Following this decision, the

(Continued on page 1214)

Edw. G. Taylor Opens Own Firm In Cincinnati

(Special to The Financial Chronicle)

CINCINNATI, OHIO—Edward G. Taylor has formed Edw. G. Taylor & Co. with offices at 111 East Fourth Street, to engage in a securities business.

Mr. Taylor in the past was an officer of Charles A. Hinsch & Co., Inc. Prior thereto he was manager of the municipal department for Ballinger & Co. and was in business for himself in Cincinnati.

Ohio Municipal Price Index

Date—	*	†	‡	§
Mar. 22, 1944 --	1.33%	1.48%	1.18%	.30%
Mar. 15 --	1.34	1.50	1.19	.31
Mar. 8 --	1.35	1.51	1.20	.31
Mar. 1 --	1.36	1.52	1.20	.32
Feb. 16 --	1.37	1.53	1.21	.32
Jan. 19 --	1.40	1.57	1.23	.34
Dec. 15, 1943 --	1.42	1.59	1.24	.35
Nov. 17 --	1.39	1.57	1.22	.35
Oct. 13 --	1.39	1.58	1.21	.37
Sep. 15 --	1.43	1.62	1.24	.38
Aug. 18 --	1.44	1.63	1.25	.38
July 15 --	1.50	1.68	1.32	.36
Mar. 16 --	1.76	1.97	1,55	.42
Jan. 1, 1943 --	1.83	2.01	1.65	.36
Jan. 1, 1942 --	1.92	2.13	1.70	.43
Jan. 1, 1941 --	1.88	2.14	1.62	.52
Jan. 1, 1940 --	2.30	2.58	2.01	.57
Jan. 1, 1939 --	2.78	3.33	2.24	1.09
Jan. 1, 1938 --	2.98	3.42	2.55	.87

Foregoing compiled by J. A. White, Cincinnati.

*Composite index for 20 bonds. †10 lower grade bonds. ‡10 high grade bonds. §Spread between high grade and lower grade bonds.

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Post-War Prospects And Problems

(Continued from First Page)

private industry in its efforts to create jobs for returning soldiers and displaced war workers?

I'd like to say I make no pretense of being a prophet. I'm not a seventh son of a seventh son. All an economist can do is to take note of current trends and attempt to project those trends into the future. Sometimes a trend will make a fool of him by suddenly reversing itself. But certain trends are very persistent. Occasionally they may get pushed off their course, but they tend to swing back again and keep on going in the direction they are headed. The few observations that I'm going to make on the future are based on the study of certain current trends.

One of the trends that gives me the greatest encouragement today is the growing recognition on the part of American industry of the importance of providing employment in the post-war era and the definite plans that it is making toward that end.

It seems as though American industry has not adopted the doctrine of noblesse oblige. Noblesse oblige translated into everyday English means that wealth and power carry with them corresponding obligations which can be neglected, overlooked or sidestepped only at your own peril. Although noblesse oblige is a French expression, the principle has been more continuously recognized by the English aristocracy than by that of France. The English nobility have rarely allowed themselves to forget that if they were to survive as a ruling class they must provide employment for those who looked to them for support. As a consequence there are members of the English aristocracy whose families have held high positions since the days of William the Conqueror. The French aristocracy, on the other hand, were lured from their landed estates by the glittering glories of the Court at Versailles. They soon paid for the neglect of their responsibilities by losing their heads under the guillotine.

The corporation is a comparatively new development. As a matter of fact, the first law to legalize the limited liability stock company was passed in the State of Connecticut in 1837, just a little over a 100 years ago. Previous to that, corporations had been formed by royal decree or legislative grant; but Connecticut was the first State to make it legally possible to form a corporation without appealing to the King or to the legislature for a charter.

Corporations are like individuals in certain respects. It takes time for them to grow up; to realize their responsibilities. When individuals are young they are likely to grasp for their privileges and overlook their obligations. During the adolescence of our corporative age, many business organizations were inclined to follow the same course. They grasped for profits, but were inclined to overlook their obligations to those who made those profits possible; their employees and also their customers. When business fell off, they turned their employees into the street. When they enjoyed a monopoly, they forced their customers to pay all the traffic would bear.

Corporate business has now come of age. It is becoming as fully aware of its obligations to its employees and its customers as it is to its stockholders. And one of the things that causes me to be highly optimistic in regard to the post-war era, is the serious consideration that the leaders in every line of business are giving today to providing employment for our returned soldiers and displaced war workers in the post-war era.

Our business leaders recognize that high level employment in the years following the war is essential. They know that if private industry doesn't provide it, the Government will. And they know that if the Government has to find jobs for 12 or 15 million workers, it would have to invade fields now dominated by private industry to do it. They are determined that this shall not be necessary. They are willing to risk private capital to create new opportunities for employment. And, after having watched how American industry licked the problem of conversion to all-out war production in less than a year — a problem which took German industry six or eight years to solve—and how it is smothering our enemies in production of planes, tanks, ships and everything else that is needed to fight a war, I'm confident that it can lick this problem of high level employment in the post-war era. Our business leaders know the magnitude of the task lying before them; they are determined to do the job themselves—I feel sure that we can depend on them to get it done.

However, this problem of creating jobs for those who will need them after the war, is not one that can be solved by the big corporations alone. It is far too big for companies like General Electric and General Motors to handle alone. Just as today each one of us must help to combat inflation by investing the money we'd like to spend for luxuries in War Bonds, so in the period of reconstruction after the war, every individual, every corporation, both large and small, every village, town, city and State, must help to create jobs for our returning soldiers. As an individual you should start now to make up your list of post-war projects. Items on that list might include such things as the building of a new home, major repairs or alterations to your present home, the buying of a new automobile, quick freeze unit or heating plant. Be prepared to spend then the money that you've saved by not buying new things during the war. It may not be easy to do this. Once you get in the habit of making things do, it is hard to get out of it. We must curb our desires to spend money for non-essentials today when so much of our manpower and material is needed to win the war; but we must be prepared to spend freely when the war ends, or otherwise our own incomes may be imperiled by the business depression that would ensue.

However, I'm not advocating that you rush into the market to buy or build right after the war ends—if everyone else is trying to do the same thing. If at that time, the demand for the things you want is greater than the supply, be patient. Wait until it shows signs of slackening before you enter the market. By so doing, you'll probably get what you want at a lower price and you will be helping to prevent a post-war boom, and depression such as we experienced in 1919, 1920 and 1921. Don't allow yourself to be stampeded by speculative enthusiasm or fear. If everyone seems to be wanting new automobiles immediately after the war and prices for new cars are way up, don't feel that unless you join the rush you'll never be able to get one. Remember what happened to those people who, back in 1929 thought that there wouldn't be any American Telephone & Telegraph stock left for them unless they paid $300 a share for it—and how they felt a year or so later when they saw that stock kicking around at less than a third of that price. Be prepared to spend for the things you need—but plan to time your expenditures so that they will avoid the rush. By so doing, you'll get better value for your money and help your country to make a smooth readjustment from war to peace.

If private industry is able to solve the problem of providing a high level of employment after the war, this will banish certain other fears and worries that haunt us at this time. There will be no reason for the Government to step into new fields, if private industry is filling its obligation to its employees and customers in those fields in a satisfactory manner. If private industry is able to provide jobs for the returned soldiers and displaced war workers, there should be no serious depression in the years immediately following the war.

But what about the problem of inflation you may ask? Wouldn't that be intensified rather than solved by the creation of a lot of new jobs after the war?

There is danger of inflation and there will be until industry is fully reconverted to peace-time production. Whenever there is more money in the hands of the buying public than there are goods to match it, there is danger of an inflationary price rise.

But I'm not greatly worried by this. In the first place, the American public is handling its money in a very conservative manner. Do you remember the silk shirt craze in the last war? Thus far there's been nothing like that in this war. And looking over the entire American scene today, there is little evidence of any inflationary buying anywhere. The stock market is behaving itself in an exemplary manner. I can name you a number of rail stocks that are selling for less than they have earned in the past 18 months. I can remember a time when 20 times annual earnings was considered a conservative value for a stock. Real estate prices have moved up a bit, but there's nothing in any way comparable to the Florida boom. The people who are making big money today are handling that money in a very sensible manner. They are paying off their debts, reducing the mortgage on the family farm or home; they're buying War Bonds and Life Insurance; they're putting it in the savings banks and they're hiding it under the mattress. I'd rather see them putting it in War Bonds, Life Insurance or savings bank accounts than hoarding it in cash, but at least they're not throwing it around. The memory of 1931 and 1932 is still fresh in their minds. They have no desire to stand in a breadline or apply to the WPA—so they're saving that money in one way or another, so that they'll be able to withstand another siege of hard times. As long as that cautionary, conservative attitude persists, there's little danger of inflation. Some economists fear that when the war ends, this conservative attitude may vanish. I'm a bit more hopeful. I think that as long as an element of uncertainty exists, people are likely to hang on to their money. Just now, the elements of uncertainty are the duration of the war and the amount of their next year's taxes. When the war ends, but before our factories are converted to peace-time production, there will still remain uncertainty as to the continuity of their jobs. After reconversion is completed, that uncertainty will disappear, and people will probably begin to spend freely; but by that time production of consumers' goods will again be in full swing and production should be able to keep pace with demand.

Another reason why I think we will escape an inflationary rise in the cost of living is because American industry and agriculture has such a tremendous productive capacity. In the fall of 1942 many economists, looking ahead into 1943, were much worried about what might happen. They figured that after the demands of our armed forces had been met the supply of goods and services

(Continued on page 1212)

TILO

Summary of Annual Report

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TILO ROOFING COMPANY, Inc. is one of the larger organizations engaged in the application of roofing and siding materials for the renovation, repair and maintenance of existing structures. Its business includes the manufacture of asphaltic and asbestos products used for these purposes. As of December 31, 1943, the company's consolidated balance sheet, as audited and presented in the company's annual report to stockholders, shows total assets of $3,732,095.18; total current assets of $3,005,655.54; total current liabilities of $672,877.93, and earned surplus of $1,477,926.28.

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income
Calendar Year 1943

Sales, including gross income from service fees on operations of subsidiary finance company	$5,010,737.88
Cost of sales, including branch office, selling, general expenses, financing charges on accounts assigned and provision for doubtful accounts	4,290,516.27
	720,221.61
Other deductions (net)	886.51
	719,335.10
Provision for federal taxes on income, including $50,200.00 for subsidiary companies	307,200.00
Net income	$ 412,135.10

Depreciation and amortization was provided during the year 1943 in the amount of $52,988.55 of which $27,763.67 was charged to costs and $25,224.88 was charged to other profit and loss accounts.

Record of Dollar Volume of Net Sales and Earnings

Year	Net Sales	Net Profit after Federal Taxes	Net Earned Per Common Share, Adjusted
1939	$3,775,524	$529,612.11	$1.19
1940	4,018,167	526,225.91	1.08
1941	4,444,213	540,403.30	1.10
1942	4,112,110	377,905.60	.74
1943	5,010,738	412,135.10	.82

A copy of the Annual Report, which includes the financial statements of the Company, may be obtained upon request.

TILO ROOFING COMPANY, INC.

STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

TILO

Post-War Prospects And Problems

(Continued from page 1211)

available for civilians would be approximately equal to that of the lowest depression year; 1932, certainly not over $60,000,000,000 worth, while there would be at least $100,000,000,000 in the hands of the buying public eagerly bidding for this limited supply. They underestimated two things: the productive capacity of American industry and agriculture and the self-restraint of the American people. As a matter of fact, the total value of civilian goods and services turned out by American industry, agriculture, transportation facilities and professional workers was close to $90,000,000,000—about 50% more than they believed to be possible, considering that at the same time these same agencies were turning out about $90,000,000,000 of war materials and services. Also, as I pointed out before, Americans refused to spend their money like drunken sailors. As we people in Hartford saw, they wouldn't pay $1 a foot for Christmas trees.

The productive capacity of this country is almost beyond our power to comprehend. Recently I saw a list of the 31 largest corporations in the United States, the companies having total assets of over $1,000,000,000. This list was headed by the Bell Telephone Co., with assets of over $6,000,000,000. It included The Travelers, here in Hartford. The total value of the total assets of these 31 companies was approximately $66,000,000,000. Do you realize that in 1943 alone American productive enterprise turned out in war materials and services alone a product that was worth almost 50% more than the total assets of our 31 largest corporations? And in addition to this it turned out about $90,000,000,000 worth of civilian goods and service.

There's always danger of inflation whenever the national income far exceeds the value of consumers' goods that can be produced to meet this income. This danger will continue to exist for the duration and for one to two years after the end of the war. But war-time controls are likely to be kept in force as long as the danger lasts, and also, the American public is saving a large percentage of its war-time earnings, and is likely to continue to do so as long as uncertainty exists as to the duration of its war-time jobs. For these reasons I think our chances of escaping an inflationary boom and its disastrous collapse are much better during and following this war than they were after the first World War or the Civil War.

It is my guess that we will see less bickering between government and business in the post-war years than we saw during the decade of the thirties. Business now recognizes the justification of a reasonable amount of government regulations. It realizes that it probably cannot handle alone the entire problem of providing employment during the period of transition and some program of public works is likely to be necessary. On the other hand, business has done such a splendid job of providing and transporting the munitions and supplies needed to win the war that it has won the admiration of the people as a whole. For example, compare the public attitude toward the railroads today with that existing 10 or 20 years ago. Well, an old political axiom is: never attack anything that stands high in public esteem. It will build resentment rather than votes. I don't predict that business and government will get along like a honeymooning couple in the post-war years. I do think, however, that the chances are they will get along much better than they did in the 10 years preceding Pearl Harbor, particularly if private industry does a good job in solving the post-war employment problem.

I think it is very likely that the general price level will be at least 25% higher than it was before we entered the war. That means that men will need at least 25% more life insurance if their families are to enjoy the same living standards that they wanted them to have before the war. The rise in the price level was one of the factors responsible for the large volume of new life insurance produced during the decade of the twenties. This same factor seems likely to favorably influence life production in the years following this war. Life insurance sold to the soldiers during the last war stimulated their interest in additional life insurance after they returned to civilian life. The national service life insurance, sold to 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 men in military service in this war, should help to arouse the desire for more adequate protection when these men return to peace-time jobs.

I don't expect any millennium in the post-war era. We're going to have plenty to worry about as we always have. However, I do feel that winning the war is not going to be hopping out of the frying pan into the fire. It should mean something better than exchanging one set of problems and worries for another equally bad or worse. It should offer new and greater opportunities, now horizons and plenty of new gadgets to play with. As a matter of fact, the post-war age will be as good as we make it—and the encouraging thing is that thousands of business leaders are planning and preparing to make it good.

Attractive Situation

The Home Insurance Company offers attractive possibilities according to a descriptive circular issued by Butler-Huff & Co. of California, 210 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, Calif. Copies of this interesting circular, and an interesting table containing more 1943 insurance figures, may be had from the firm upon request.

Professor Cassel Warns Against Protectionism

Writing in the March 6th issue of "Svenska Dagbladet," Professor Gustav Cassel, celebrated Swedish economist, draws attention to the growing international tendency toward protectionism. Underlining the fact that the United States and Great Britain have not solved the problem of an international currency, Professor Cassel finds the prospects dark for reaching a general settlement of trade problems. The policy of Secretary of State Cordell Hull would be of tremendous value to the international economic system, but the writer does not find any guarantees that his program will be applied.

The control of foreign exchange, or "valuta," which at any moment may arbitrarily check the free movements of the world trade, has infinitely more harmful consequences than import duties, declares Professor Cassel, and then he adds that "it seems obvious that we must expect such restrictions in the future. In fact, sheer power politics will most likely determine the regulation of international trade."

M. J. Meehan To Admit

Thomas A. Portway will shortly become a partner in M. J. Meehan & Co., 30 Broad Street, New York City, members of the New York and Chicago Stock Exchanges.

Ohio Brevities

(Continued from page 1210)

Between 75 and 100 members of District 10 of the National Association of Securities Dealers attended a meeting in Cleveland at which problems of the securities industry were discussed, Peter Ball of Ball, Coons & Co., Governor from District 10, announced. The district takes in all of Ohio and northern Kentucky.

Among those present were Ralph Chapman, National Chairman of NASD, and Wallace Fulton of Philadelphia, Executive Director.

Others attending included Neil Ransick of Charles A. Hinsch & Co. of Cincinnati, District Chairman, and the following committee members: Theodore Thoburn of Hayden, Miller & Co.; Edward Parsons Jr. of Wm. J. Mericka & Co., Inc.; Ford Weber of Ford R. Weber & Co. of Toledo, and John E. Joseph of John E. Joseph & Co. of Cincinnati.

* * *

Otis & Co. was in the account of Chase National Bank which was awarded $8,330,000 State of New York Housing bonds on a bid of 100.359 for 1.30s, maturing Mar. 1, 1946 to 1994. Bonds were reoffered at 0.40% to a dollar basis of 97½. Otis & Co. was the only Ohio house in the account.

* * *

Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co., the world's largest producer of lined bearings and bushings, this week is celebrating its 25th milestone and with the four men who founded the company still at its helm.

Now a big cog in the nation's war machine, the company in the past quarter century has grown from 20 employees and no working capital to one of America's finest plants, employing 7,000 men and women and housing the greatest concentration of engineering and production skill ever applied to the bearing industry.

To mark the occasion, newsmen and magazine writers were taken on a tour of the spacious new plant last week, the first time they have had a chance to view operations going full blast on war production.

The founders and top executives of the company are Ben F. Hopkins, President; J. J. McIntyre, Senior Vice-President; James L. Myers, Executive Vice-President in general charge of operations, and Carl W. Johnson, Vice-President in charge of sales. John V. O. Palm, born on a farm in Sweden, is Vice-President in charge of engineering and research.

The company announced that net sales in 1943 exceeded the $49,000,000 mark or double those of 1942.

* * *

Cleve H. Pomeroy, Secretary and Treasurer of National Malleable & Steel Castings Co., has moved up to the Vice-Presidency. He has been with the company since 1920.

The Business Man's Bookshelf

Beloved Scientist—A biography of Elihu Thomson—David O. Woodbury — Whittlesey House — McGraw Hill Building, New York 18, N. Y.—cloth—$3.50.

Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders 70th Annual Report—Williams, Lea & Co., Clifton House, Worship St., London, E. C. 2, England—paper.

Financial Problems of a Fixed Income Group in War Time, The—W. H. Steiner, Chairman of the Department of Economics, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N. Y.—paper.

Home Front, The (How Country Banks Can Meet Government-Subsidized Competition, Build Business, and Win Farmer Goodwill) — Commission on Country Bank Operations, American Bankers Association, 22 East 40th St., New York 16, N. Y.—paper.

Household Furnishings (A Survey of the Industry)—E. W. Axe & Co., Inc., 730 Fifth Ave., New York 19, N. Y.—paper.

International Conciliation for March, 1944— (The United Nations, The British Commonwealth, and the United States; Speech of Lord Halifax at Toronto; Speech of W. L. Mackenzie King at Ottawa; Report of Vyacheslav M. Molotov to Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R.; and Text of Soviet Autonomy Decrees) — Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 405 West 117th St., New York 27, N. Y.—paper—5¢ per copy (25¢ per year)

Ohio, An Empire Within An Empire—Ohio Development and Publicity Commission, Columbus, Ohio—cloth.

Place of Silver In Monetary Reconstruction—H. Michell, Professor of Political Economy, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., Canada—The Monetary Standards Inquiry, 408 Graybar Building, New York 17, N. Y.—paper—first copy free of charge; additional copies 10 cents each.

Power Industry and the Public Interest, The—A Summary of the Results of a Survey of the Relations Between the Government and the Electric Power Industry — The Twentieth Century Fund, 330 West 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y.—cloth—$2.00.

Smaller Nations in World's Economic Life, The—V. Raud—P. S. King and Staples, Limited, 14 Great Smith St., Westminster, London S. W. 1, England—paper—2 shillings (net).

War and Post-War Adjustment Policies—Bernard M. Baruch and John M. Hancock—American Council on Public Affairs, 2153 Florida Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.—paper.

This advertisement is under no circumstances to be construed as an offer to sell the Debentures or Common Stock mentioned below, or as an offer to buy, or as a solicitation of an offer to buy, any of such Debentures or Common Stock or Certificates of Deposit for the 6% Cumulative Prior Preference Stock. The offering is made only by means of the Prospectus.

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Exchange Offer

By Prospectus dated March 10, 1944, Certain-Teed Products Corporation is offering to the holders of the outstanding 67,373 shares of its 6% Cumulative Prior Preference Stock, the right to exchange such shares for its 4% Cumulative Income Debentures (Subordinated) and shares of Common Stock on the basis of $100 principal amount of 4% Cumulative Income Debentures (Subordinated) and two shares of Common Stock for each share of 6% Cumulative Prior Preference Stock. The Common Stock and the Certificates of Deposit for the 6% Cumulative Prior Preference Stock have been listed, upon official notice of issuance, on the New York Stock Exchange and application has been made to list the 4% Cumulative Income Debentures (Subordinated).

The Exchange Offer is made solely by means of the Prospectus, copies of which have been mailed to Prior Preference Stockholders. Additional copies of the Prospectus and Letters of Transmittal for use in connection with exchanges of 6% Cumulative Prior Preference Stock for Income Debentures and Common Stock may be obtained by the Prior Preference Stockholders from the undersigned, or from Paul H. Davis & Co., 10 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, who, as Dealer Manager, is assisting the Company in obtaining acceptances of the Exchange Offer, or from Bankers Trust Company, Depositary, 16 Wall Street, New York 15, New York.

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Canadian Securities

By BRUCE WILLIAMS

Close observers of the Canadian political picture have discerned a definite swing in the past few months in favor of the present Liberal Government. The previous apparent strong upsurge of the C. C. F. throughout the country is proving largely illusory.

To some extent outsiders were deceived by the publicity deliberately given to the movement by its political opponents, who apparently led a definite campaign to arouse the electorate, and in so doing exaggerated the challenge of the left-wing group. Furthermore, it has to be taken into consideration that a large proportion of the votes cast for the C. C. F. in the Ontario provincial elections were of the protest variety against the Mackensie King government which, in a Federal election, in a choice between two evils, would go to the Liberals or Progessive Conservatives.

There is now a feeling of quiet confidence in government circles, and from all over the country, especially in the Western provinces, where it was felt that the C. C. F. strength was greatest, there are now clear indications that this party is losing ground.

The waning influence of the C. C. F. brand of socialism in the West is largely a result of the present almost unparalleled prosperity of the Prairie farmers. It is estimated that following the increase in the basic initial price of wheat to $1.25 per bushel, the wheat income alone of the Western farmers is likely to be more than $100 millions in excess of that of 1943, during which year Western farm mortgage debt was reduced by 14%.

In the East, the Ontario electorate has lost its apathy and the results of the provincial elections are not likely to be repeated in a Federal election. The C. C. F. has never made much headway in the Maritime provinces, and the great Catholic province of Quebec is a solid bulwark against the infiltration of extreme radical ideas. In the forthcoming elections, it is believed that the government will stand on its record of solid achievement during the war, and will possibly steal some of the C. C. F. thunder in the meantime.

In the financial field, recent provincial annual statements make very satisfactory reading. During the financial year ending March 31, Ontario achieved a surplus of $8,638,877 and was able to effect its greatest debt reduction in history; net debt was decreased by $12,072,721, and the gross debt by $37,508,575. Similarly, Nova Scotia announced a surplus of $2,915,729, also the largest in history and the seventh in 11 years.

In the securities market, the tone remained good but activity was on a reduced scale. Interest was mainly centered on the outstanding issues of the City of Montreal and the long 4½s were in demand at 104. Operations in connection with the debt reorganization plan proceeded satisfactorily and it should not be long before the whole matter is definitely concluded.

In this case the optimism frequently expressed in this column has been fully justified but constructive action in the Alberta debt situation is still lacking. However, as previously stated, there is little doubt that the successful solution of the Montreal situation will bring the Alberta default into sharp relief and should hasten negotiations in this case. At any rate, the market seemed to reflect this opinion and the 4½s were bid at 83½ after their recent decline to 81½.

Otherwise, the market was quiet but there was still a persistent demand for the shorter term issues. Canadian Pacific perpetuals also continued in demand and were bid at 95. It appears that it will not be long before this issue will be the only remaining general market obligation of this railroad payable in U. S. dollars. There was some activity in the internal issues but the "free" Canadian dollar declined to 10 11/16% discount.

With regard to the future course of the market in general, we are now approaching another Victory Loan period. This should lead to a certain deceleration of activity, but with interest in this country in Canadian securities constantly broadening, and the imminent exhaustion of the supply from Canada, there is no reason to expect anything beyond a certain levelling off of prices. In connection with the supply factor, it is interesting to note that last year set a new record for the volume of sales of securities from Canada at $172 millions as against $105½ millions in 1942.

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Montreal's Credit Position Restored

Sale of $54,886,500 Serial Bonds Assures Debt Reorganization

The successful sale in Canada by a large syndicate of banks and dealers headed by Dominion Securities Corp., Ltd. and L. G. Beaubien & Co., Ltd. of $48,433,500 of series "A" serial bonds payable in Canadian currency and the private placement in the United States of $6,453,000 serial bonds payable in United States currency assures the success of the entire financial reorganization of Montreal. The United States payment bonds were placed by a syndicate headed by Harriman Ripley & Co., Inc. and The Dominion Securities Corp.

The series "A" bonds mature annually on Nov. 1, 1944-1953 inclusive in amounts varying from $5,320,000 to $5,877,000. The coupons range from 2¼% on the shortest bonds to 3¼% on those maturing in 1953. All of the bonds, both in Canada and in the United States, are being sold at 100.

The proceeds from the sale of these bonds will be used to pay off bank loans and past-due City of Montreal obligations including those which will mature up to and including May 15, 1944.

The sale of series "A" serial bonds is but a part of the comprehensive plan for the complete reorganization of the finances of the City. Norman S. Taber & Co., municipal financial consultants of New York City, were consulted in connection with the preparation of the plan of financial reorganization. The plan has been passed by the City Council, ratified by the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, and is now to be submitted for the approval of the City's creditors. Sixty days must elapse after the notice of the plan is given to creditors and unless one third of the creditors object during that period, the plan becomes final and is binding on both the City and its creditors.

In addition to the series "A" bonds which have been sold, the City will offer to existing bondholders $164,958,555 of serial bonds maturing annually from Nov. 1, 1953 to Nov. 1, 1975 inclusive, in exchange for their present holdings. The new bonds will in every instance bear the same rate of interest as the bonds for which they are exchanged up to the old maturity, and interest at rates ranging from 3¼% to 3¾% from the date of the old maturity to the date to which each particular maturity has been extended. The average extension is 12.65 years for the entire issue.

Mutual Funds

A friend of ours who is of the old school when it comes to investment literature once wrote that he was waiting for the day when some enterprising investment company sponsor would come out with an illustrated prospectus. "That I want to see!" were his concluding words.

The new prospectus on **Selected American Shares** is not illustrated—unless the symbol on the front and back covers can be considered "illustrations"—but it does have a touch of color on it. And this, to our way of thinking, is a vast improvement over the horribly dull-looking prospectuses which have come to be accepted as standard in the field.

Here is one place where the SEC could be constructive in the matter of "sales literature." If the Commission is anxious to have the investor read the prospectus before he buys, it would do well to encourage sponsors in the preparation of more inviting official sales documents. We think the new Selected American Shares prospectus is a start in the right direction.

* * *

Last week we carried a note on the proposed refunding of the $10,000,000 of outstanding 4% debentures of **Affiliated Fund.** We can now report that the refunding has been approved by stockholders and it is expected that the present bonds will be called as of May 1, 1944.

The current issue of **Lord, Abbett's Abstracts** carries a chart record of the market performance of **American Business Shares** since the Dow-Jones Industrial Average made its high in July of last year. Although the average has not yet recovered to that high point of 145.82, American Business Shares (adjusted for capital gains dividend) is now selling at $3.86 as compared with $3.77 at the time the Dow-Jones Industrial Average made its 1943 high.

"This performance," concludes the bulletin, "reflects careful, balanced selection, with diversification over common stocks, preferred stocks and bonds, with no undue concentration in any one industry."

* * *

"What Kind of Investment Result Do You Want?" is the title of the current issue of **Keystone Corp.'s Keynotes.**

"The first logical step in any investment program," states Keynotes, "is to determine the major investment purpose and then to select the appropriate classes of securities which can get the desired result." Keynotes then summarizes the four major investment purposes as follows:

1. **Reserves**—For relative stability of capital with modest return.
2. **Income**—For a moderate to generous rate of return which may be depended upon.
3. **Income and Growth**—For regular income, although in varying amounts depending on conditions, with the possibility of capital growth during periods of rising prices.
4. **Growth**—For maximum appreciation in a rising market.

The bulletin gives data on the various Keystone Custodian funds indicating which funds are appropriate for the various investment purposes.

* * *

National Securities & Research Corp. has published a little folder entitled, "To Those Who Manage Investment Portfolios." It is addressed to corporations, associations, institutions, trusts, schools, colleges, religious and fraternal organizations. While the frank purpose of the folder is to encourage such investment portfolio managers to consider the offerings of National Securities & Research Corp., mutual funds as a group are recommended for consideration. Such efforts by individual sponsors to create understanding and goodwill for the industry should be highly effective, revealing as they do an unbiased and fair-minded attitude even with respect to the offerings of competitors.

The current issue of **Investment Timing** contains an article headed "Post-War Taxes?" in which many of the faults of our present tax system are pointed out and suggested remedies are given. In conclusion, the folder states: "For the American free enterprise system to function to its greatest efficiency after the war certain tax reforms will be necessary. . . .

"Corporate executives and individual investors can aid to bring about these tax reforms by making

(Continued on page 1217)

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Inflation---The Psychological Approach

(Continued from First Page)

vince us that we cannot have inflation, because our situation is "different" from others. The Germans lost a war, and had to transfer reparations, which, incidentally, they did not "transfer" the French parliamentary system was corrupt, and much of their country had been devastated; in Italy, the syndicalists and fascists played havoc with the political set-up, etc. Much comfort seems to be derived from the fact, too, that foreign trade is of lesser importance to this country than to most others. There are, of course, special circumstances present in each and every case. But each time, the reason price inflation takes place is the preceding and continuing monetary inflation. Whether purchasing power is being poured out on account of reparation payments or on behalf of lend-lease; for the benefit of reconstruction problems abroad or of public works at home; to finance war or to finance revolution, or what have you, is as irrelevant to its effect as the cause of a death is to the estate tax on the fortune of the deceased. What matters is the amount of money that has been and will be created, without an equivalent rise in the flow of goods at the consumers' disposal.

More effective, or more insidious, are arguments of this kind: that price inflations are not threatening so long as the country has a large gold reserve; or so long as it maintains its exchanges at gold par (and its money "stays at home"); or so long as it maintains "effective" price controls. The underlying assumption in each case is that it is not the vast volume of money per se that upsets the equilibrium of the markets. The unbalanced situation arises only if and when some external circumstance brings about a buyers' panic. All we have to do then, is to control those external circumstances. The burden of the inflation problem is thus shifted from the consideration of supply-demand forces to that of administrative powers: to the maintenance of a large gold reserve, to the stabilization of exchange rates, and to price controls.

Gold Reserve And Price Inflation

The least valid of all such "psychological" arguments is the one which uses the size of the gold reserve as a means to convey the impression that no danger of price inflation exists or needs to exist. In reality, the significance of the gold reserve, psychological or otherwise, is two-fold: to limit the amount of available purchasing power at home; and to protect the value of the currency abroad. In a paper inflation, the first function is gone with the wind. As to the second, it is valid only so far as it creates the **presumption** that a country with a large gold reserve is likely to be able to maintain the gold-content of its currency unit. What matters, however, in this respect, is not the absolute volume of gold on hand, but the relative one: in relation to the potential demand for international payments.

At the time the United States went off the gold standard in 1933, its gold reserve of some $4.5 billions was the largest of the world, but the loss of a bare quarter-billion, due to the withdrawal of foreign funds and to the flight of American money into foreign currencies, drove the Administration into panicky measures. At that time, the total "current liabilities" of the nation—that is, the foreign and American owned money that could be withdrawn on short notice—consisting of bank deposits and of cash in circulation, was covered by gold in the ratio of about 9%. Presently, the huge gold reserve of almost $22 billions represents only about 12% of the total "quick liabilities" of the country (including the short-term government bonds outside the banks and those redeemable on short notice). If we proceed with a deficit of about $60 billions per annum, most of which takes the form of legal tender and bank deposits, or short-term paper, the gold coverage of the national purchasing power volume will soon be as low as it was in 1933. The same problem of maintaining the exchange rates at par may arise as it did then, even if the gold reserve remains untouched.

But will it remain untouched? We have lost since Pearl Harbor over $1 billion of gold. After the war, our position will be very strong on the international markets, indeed, but comparatively few outlets for exports — other than Latin America, India, etc.—will be open unless financed by short and long credits, or by lend-lease. The balance between paid-for imports and largely unpaid-for exports is not likely to net gold, and with the revival of tourist traffic substantial gold losses may be in the offing. What is more, very little of our outstanding credits can be mobilized while our total indebtedness to foreign countries is estimated lately as high as $13 billions (not counting the earmarked gold) of which at least $5 billions are "hot money" that might be promptly withdrawn. On top of it, the vast expansion of currency at home, coupled with severe taxation and the prospect of rising prices, is likely to invite American capitalists to seek foreign investments and "hedging" outlets. All of which adds up to the prospect that after the war our gold reserve may decline substantially while the monetary volume is bound to be much larger than now, and may continue to rise further.

Exchange Stability vs. Inflation

What, then, of the prospects of exchange-stability? Presently, the U. S. dollar sells in the open markets of the world at a 45 to 55% discount, indicating a depreciation against gold approximately equal to that under which the mark labored at the time of the armistice. At that time, the Germans knew as much about it as Americans know now about the actual "gold content" of their money. Of course, this decline may be corrected by an early return to the free export of gold, that is **de facto** suspended by the method of freezing foreign claims. But how long can the convertibility into gold (for export) be maintained under such post-war conditions as outlined above?

Nor is it even correct that the depreciation or devaluation of the dollar has to precede the rise of prices. Historically, decline of the currency's purchasing power at home often precedes the decay of its value on the foreign exchange markets. Theoretically, the two symptoms—rising prices and rising foreign exchange rates—are correlate; the one may be the cause as well as the consequence of the other. From the psychological angle, rising prices create the expectation of currency depreciation, just as the latter brings about the anticipation of the former.

Of course, a nominal gold parity can be maintained by foreign exchange regulations: by "freezing" the dollar in relation to other currencies. This is the German system of the 1930's that has been widely adopted during this war. Regulated foreign exchanges amount to concealing the actual depreciation, driving it into black markets, and presaging a future devaluation. They eliminate, for awhile, panicky fluctuations which could be eliminated anyway (by open-market operations in gold, etc.). But the price to be paid for regulating foreign exchanges consists of the necessity of putting everything that may affect them into strait-jackets: exports and imports, capital movements and even tourist traffic. Freezing foreign exchange transactions is temporarily "helpful" to a debtor country that uses the technique instead of an open default on foreign obligations; or to a creditor country to stop lending abroad. But in either case, it spells the ruin of international trade and credit, and presupposes a managed economy at home.

Regimentation vs. Inflation

The final word of every approach that pretends to combat inflation by "psychology" is regimentation. Indeed, the only way to stabilize a price level in the midst of, or after, a saturnalia of governmental spending, and to keep the public from converting the paper proceeds into real goods, is by not permitting the consumer to freely consume and business to invest. Consumption and business investment have to be strictly regulated so as to keep the demand within the potentialities of supply. **All "psychological" cures of inflation amount to curing by strait-jackets.**

Let's be clear about the underlying fundamentals. The average American will command three or four, or maybe five and six times more purchasing power — currency, and paper readily convertible, at face value, into currency —than he used to possess. Unless a price inflation is permitted to run amuck, due to the disbursement of excess purchasing power (over and above the disbursement of currently earned incomes), one of three policies, or their combination, has to be adopted:

(a) **Deflation** of the excessive volume of purchasing power by **default** on the promise to redeem at par;

(b) Absorption of the same excessive volume **by taxation;**

(c) **Reduction of its velocity of circulation** by persuading or forcing the owner to restrain from spending—the "psychological" approach.

The Meaning of Price Control

Few people believe that persuasion would work under **Post-war** conditions: that the appeal to patriotism, or even the offer of much higher interest rates, could keep the consumer from spending, and business from investing, when a vast accumulation of purchasing power will coincide with a similar accumulation of unsatisfied demand for durable goods. The medicine of European doctors is: to force self-restraint down the throats of individuals and corporations. They may keep their money, provided they don't buy more than what the authorities permit. The way to accomplish this is **rationing**, which in turn permits control of prices. This is the way most belligerent governments actually plan to dispose of their post-war inflation-worries: by letting the consumer keep his money, but keeping him from spending it. The same "solution" is being propagandized by American economists who get their cue from German, Russian, or English intellectual headquarters. They claim that since price control "works" (allegedly) in war-time, there is no reason why it shouldn't be enforced in peace-time; and they assume that people will regard their money as "good" even if it cannot buy, provided the loss of its purchasing power is due to administrative constraint and not to rising prices.

The answer is briefly, that—

1. Rationing and price control are so far only successful under war-time conditions when the consumer is willing to cooperate for patriotic reasons—when his economic motivation is dulled, so to speak;

2. Even in war, their success is temporary and limited. "Luxury" goods skyrocket even in Russia and in Germany, and black markets develop everywhere;

3. Post-war enforcement would necessitate an over-all control of economic activities, and a vast bureaucratic set-up, scarcely compatible with American standards of individual freedom;

4. The physical impossibility to enforce an all-round price control necessitates the use of subsidies, direct and indirect, which in turn add to the volume of purchasing power and enhance the upward pressure on the price level, making control more and more difficult;

5. Especially so, in view of the fact that an inflated monetary volume combined with price control means that the broad masses will feel secure in the possession of their vastly increased purchasing power. The psychological consequence is more spending.

6. Lastly, under those conditions, "full employment" is likely to prevail, with the consequent shortage of labor; if so, wages are bound to rise, in turn raising costs and prices.

Psychology of Inflation

The psychology of inflation has little to do with foreign exchanges and still less with gold reserves. Rising exchange rates and declining gold reserves may stimulate the buying spree; their absence does not hold it up. Price control and rationing tend to accomplish the opposite of their aim. What makes the consumer disgorge his liquid holdings and induces him to accept higher prices —the change in attitude from the hoarding propensity to the preference for spending—is a matter of economic reason, not of administrative tricks.

The average American — man, woman and child—will have this year an income of $1,100 or more, as against less than half as much five years ago. By the end of the year, he or she will have in "liquid" asests (cash, deposits and other paper at its cash surrender value) at least $1,500, or about three times more than what used to be in prosperous times the per capita liquid holdings in this country. An over-all prohibition to stop the use of comparatively high incomes and of disproportionately high savings, will create misgivings and fears rather than confidence; the attempt to enforce it by a policeman in front of every retail shop and another one behind every consumer is bound to bring about chaotic market conditions.

What determines, under such circumstances, the consumers' and investors' attitude is their expectation: that their incomes will or will not stay high, and rise further. If they expect the maintenance of the same or similar incomes, the incentive to reduce current saving and raise current spending is bound to prevail. Unless the American people have changed their "psychology" to such an extent as to become primarily interested in counting dollars rather than in enjoying things which dollars buy, it is most unlikely that either the saving of 35 to 40% of the national income, as last year, or the hoarding of the already accumulated "liquidity" should continue much longer.

Nor is it necessary that all people should act simultaneously and in the same fashion. A substantial fraction of the population dishoarding its liquid reserves can start the ball rolling. Once it rolls, once prices start to rise, without the excuse of war-time shortages and without the inhibitions of war-time restraint, the dishoarding is bound to progress in a cumulative fashion.

For all practical purposes, it makes little or no difference in what form the cash holdings are being accumulated; in which way we classify them (as Professor Schlichter does) as hot, warm, and cold savings; nor even does their distribution among savers matter. Few people ignore the real status of their "liquidity" because a greater or smaller part of it is in one cash form or another. What part of one's savings is hot or warm or cold, to use this new academic jargon, depends on temporary preferences, and is irrelevant to the problem. They may all turn "hot," as soon as the disbursement of a minor part has started raising prices, which in turn causes more income-inflation and more dishoarding of savings. It is this vicious circle from excess spending to rising prices to more spending, etc., that constitutes the psychological essense of a runaway inflation. It can be prevented only by stopping its material and psychological source: the expectation of a continued monetary inflation.

The CHRONICLE invites comments on the views expressed by Dr. Palyi, in this article, or on any related phases of the subject under discussion. Comments should be addressed to Editor, "Commercial and Financial Chronicle," 25 Spruce Street, New York 8, N. Y.

Ohio Municipal Comment

(Continued from page 1210)

city of Columbus, along with many other subdivisions in Ohio, prepared its budget to levy outside tax limitations for bonds issued prior to Jan. 1, 1931. A taxpayer brought suit to enjoin the levy of such taxes outside the tax limitation. The Supreme Court, following the same reasoning as in the Hudson case, upheld the city of Columbus.

Certain cities in Ohio, however, have operated under their own individual charters which specify a particular tax limitation for the particular city. In some cases these charters, with their respective tax limitations, were adopted prior to Jan. 1, 1931. The city of Akron adopted a charter on Nov. 6, 1928, with a tax limitation of 7.5 mills. This year Akron officials have prepared a budget with the intention of levying outside this 7.5 limitation for all bonds issued prior to Jan. 1, 1931, under the terms of the Hudson and Columbus cases.

A taxpayer's suit has been filed in the Supreme Court to test the right of the city to levy outside the charter limit of 7.5 mills for unvoted bonds issued subsequent to Nov. 6, 1928, the date the charter limitation was adopted. It will be interesting to know the reasoning of the court on this question, though it would seem that, since the charter was of course adopted by a vote of the people of the city, a decision in favor of the taxpayer in this case would not be contrary to the reasoning expressed in the Hudson and Columbus cases.

Customers Brokers To Hear On Market After German Collapse

The Association of Customers' Brokers will hold a meeting in the Board of Governors' Room of the New York Stock Exchange at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28. The topic is "The Outlook for the Stock Market Following the German Collapse." The speaker will be Mr. Lewis Shellbach, of Standard & Poor's Corp.

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Reserve Liability of Prop. -- 8,780,000
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Aggregate Assets 30th Sept., 1943 ---------- £187,413,762

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Dillman Joining Cgo. Journal Of Commerce

The Investment Bankers Association of America announced on March 18 that David Dillman, Educational Director of the Association since 1936, had resigned effective April 1. Mr. Dillman is to become Managing Editor of the "Chicago Journal of Commerce." He was on the staff of that paper from 1924, when he was graduated from Northwestern University, until 1932, serving in various capacities, including that of financial editor and assistant editor. He was later staff economist of "Business Week" magazine.

Establish Reserve Purchasing Power For Consumers Goods After The War: Wachtel

President Of Calvert Distillers Corporation Declares That Government and Industry Must Act Now To Siphon Off Enough Money To Provide A Cushion to Prevent Inflation

To keep faith with our men and women on the fighting fronts, and to assure a strong home front, definite steps must be taken now to absorb excess purchasing power to prevent inflation and to provide a reserve of purchasing power for buying consumer goods after the war, according to W. W. Wachtel, President of Calvert Distillers Corporation who spoke at the meeting of the Newspaper Representatives Association of New York at the Hotel Lexington, March 9.

W. W. Wachtel

Pointing out that the widespread purchase of war bonds will not only help to win the war but "to win the peace," as well, he said: "When the conversion from wartime to peacetime economy takes place, the ones who will most need a backlog of savings will be the people in the lower income brackets."

With the 1943 national income reaching approximately 143 billion dollars, with consumer goods and services available absorbing 89½ billion dollars and Federal and State taxes absorbing another 25 billion, Mr. Wachtel declared that the remaining gap of roughly 30 billion between consumer income and expenditures is likely to spiral prices upward unless the situation is effectively handled. He pointed to the conditions in the postwar era of 1920, with $18 shirts, $25 shoes and 25 cent sugar, as dangers to our economic structure which must not be permitted to develop in the period ahead.

Citing the "home front" challenge, the president of the Calvert Corporation asserted that government and industry, working in complete harmony as to objectives, must act now to "siphon off enough money for a cushion to prevent inflation and accumulate reserve purchasing power to enable business to set up reserves out of current earnings to meet postwar problems to plan now for conversion of war plants for the production of peacetime consumer goods and to provide maximum re-employment in private industry."

Mr. Wachtel frankly conceded that free enterprise is under criticism, that our age-old system is being challenged, and that unless the challenge is met courageously and intelligently, those who advocate changing the way under which our country has grown and prospered will have argument for a change.

As regards postwar opportunities for consumer production and employment, Mr. Wachtel quoted official and industry surveys showing consumers will have over 100 billion dollars available immediately after the close of hostilities with which to buy 2,600,000 automobiles, 1,266,000 washing machines, 1,750,000 refrigerators and 1,000,000 homes, with all the furniture, furnishings, radios, stoves and utensils that would go into these homes.

Mr. Wachtel said in part:

"Whatever one may think of some of the details of the overall program of our Goveranment, we cannot quarrel with its present objective; namely, to prevent inflation and to avoid the mistakes of the previous postwar period. Following World War I, our shelves bulged with heavy inventories, prices got out of hand and reached fantastic figures, and little provision had been made for a reserve of purchasing power. The result was that we had difficulty in getting back to peacetime operation and in finding jobs for those who returned from the front.

"After the war has been won, it is equally important that we win the peace. When the men come back from the front, it will be the job of business leaders to see that they are employed. This can be done if we end the war with inventories bare of peacetime needs, with prices under control so that there is no severe recession in values, and with money saved up on the part of the many instead of on the part of only the few.

"After the war, dealers' sales rooms will be bare of automobiles, refrigerators, radios, electrical appliances, household furnishings, furniture, clothing and other necessities of life. The need for these commodities will be great. Newly-married soldiers will want to establish their own homes. Everybody who has gone without during the war will be in the market for consumer goods. If we have a reserve of purchasing power, we have a right to forecast prosperity following the war. Furthermore, we face the necessity for aiding in rebuilding the rest of the world. It is easy to see why some economists think that, if we plan properly and wisely, we can have an era of prosperity for a generation. Industry will be able to employ men returning from the front; we should have a peacetime boom such as this country has never seen."

Guy Cordon Succeeds Late Senator McNary

On March 13 Guy Cordon of Roseburg, Ore., a Republican attorney, took the oath as United States Senator, succeeding the late Charles L. McNary, whose death on Feb. 25 was noted in our issue of March 9, page 1024.

Mr. Cordon, who will serve until the November election, was named to the post by Gov. Snell on March 4, who renounced his own aspirations to the office, it was stated in Portland, Ore. Advices to the New York "Times," stated that it had been generally expected that Gov. Snell would either resign and accept appointment to the Senate or would seek the Republican nomination in May. From the same advices we quote:

"Mr. Cordon is well known in the Capital, having represented the Interstate Association of Public Land Councils, comprising 11 Western States, and the Association of Oregon Counties before many governmental departments and Congressional committees. He is considered an expert in tax matters and has served as adviser to the Governor on revenue measures. He has worked with the Oregon delegation in Congress since 1926 on public land matters. . . .

"He is past President of the Oregon District Attorneys' Association and past Oregon State Commander of the American Legion."

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Bank and Insurance Stocks

This Week—Bank Stocks

By E. A. Van Deusen

Two weeks ago this column presented the five year earnings record of seventeen leading New York City banks, covering the period 1939 to 1943 inclusive. This week a similar record is shown for twenty leading commercial banks in cities other than New York. Wherever possible, operating earnings as reported by each bank have been used, in other cases "indicated earnings" as calculated from the balance sheets are shown. Lack of uniformity among the banks in the reporting of operating results renders strict comparisons impossible, nevertheless the figures presented may be considered as being generally comparable, and furthermore, they have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable.

As in the case of the New York City banks, the general trend of earnings over the past five years, despite taxes and higher operating costs, has been upward. Capitalization changes have been made in some banks, such as Continental Illinois and First National of Chicago, as shown in the foot-notes. In the case of First National of Pittsburgh, the stock was split five for one in 1943, and earnings have been adjusted back to 1939 to reflect this split-up. In the last column of the tabulation the current dividend rate is shown, which, in all instances, it will be observed, is well within the earnings figures. In some cases dividend coverage by reported net operating earnings appears extraordinary, such as in the case of Cleveland Trust and Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust.

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NET OPERATING EARNINGS PER SHARE
(Except as noted)

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	Current Dividend
Baltimore						
*First National	$3.11	$3.01	$3.32	$3.04	$5.43	$2.50
Boston						
*First National	2.45	2.66	2.30	2.38	2.90	2.00
*National Shawmut	1.06	1.07	1.06	1.03	1.31	1.00
Chicago						
‡Continental Illinois	5.99	10.76	10.12	8.39	8.45	4.00
†First National	16.27	20.28	21.74	22.16	15.27	11.50
*Harris Trust & Savings	20.59	21.75	24.02	23.15	25.42	12.00
*Northern Trust	30.23	30.41	30.80	32.05	35.27	18.00
Cleveland						
Cleveland Trust	24.51	22.07	14.63	23.85	27.50	3.50
National City	2.17	1.91	2.12	2.35	3.03	1.20
Los Angeles						
Sec. First National	6.01	5.30	5.95	5.68	5.76	2.60
Philadelphia						
Corn Exchange	3.66	3.71	4.08	4.21	4.92	2.00
Fidelity-Philadelphia	20.60	20.11	23.76	22.02	28.17	8.00
Girard Trust	3.58	3.76	4.35	4.31	5.44	3.00
Pennsylvania Company	2.18	2.39	2.19	2.23	2.56	1.60
Philadelphia National	8.30	8.29	8.02	6.50	8.39	5.00
Pittsburgh						
First National	3.18	3.07	3.75	2.04	2.19	1.60
St. Louis						
First National	2.62	1.95	2.26	1.82	3.03	2.20
San Francisco						
American Trust	3.65	4.15	4.05	4.89	6.45	1.60
Bank of America	5.69	5.70	5.44	4.79	5.56	2.40
*Wells Fargo	13.97	14.35	14.52	16.22	15.84	13.00

*Indicated earnings. †30,000 shares 1939-1942; 50,000 in 1943. ‡1,500,000 shares 1939-1942; 1,800,000 in 1943.

There has not only been a substantial growth in the earnings of the banks, but also in capital funds, as represented by the book-value per share of stock. In Table II the book-values as of December 31, 1939 and December 31, 1943

(Continued on page 1217)

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Forrestal To Address Bond Club Of New York

Hon. James V. Forrestal, Under Secretary of the Navy, will address a luncheon meeting of the Bond Club of New York to be held on April 3 at the Bankers Club, Richard de La Chapelle, President of the club announced.

Bankers Securs. Corp. Elects Charles J. Green

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Albert M. Greenfield, Chairman of the Board of Bankers Securities Corporation, 1315 Walnut Street, announces the election of Charles J. Green as Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer of the Corporation.

The Rising Tide Of Railroad Credit

(Continued from First Page)

man down." This, by inference, puts to rest "The Decadent Theory" that held forth for so long. The airplane and "What's gonna happen after the war" fears have given way to sober enlightenment that there is a real place for the rails in our transportation field of the future. The trucks and ships will get a word later, but, they too, have been stricken off the dangerous list. Also, the inland waterways, under Government subsidy—built up on the pretext of being necessary in war—are not a factor since this war has seen a shifting to the rails of traffic because in this emergency the tonnage has had to move by rails for greater speed.

The record made by the rails in handling business is simply astounding! Certainly, that old wheeze about "inefficiency" has been buried very, very deep. Just a minute here!

In 1943 the railroads did twice the ton miles of 1919 with 600,000 fewer freight cars and 22,000 fewer locomotives. There were also 13,000 fewer passenger cars in 1943 when passenger miles increased to 85,000,000,000, as against 46,000,000,000 plus in 1919. But most amazing is the fact that all this business was done with 550,000 fewer employees!

Last Fall the National City Bank Review gave a very interesting summary of how it was done, and I think it's worth repeating, because we had been trying to tell the same story for months, except we didn't hit on the simple method. Here it is!

"Germany's Propaganda Minister, in his memorable broadcast of a year-and-a-half ago, bases his prediction of an American transportation breakdown on the fact that we had half a million fewer freight cars going into World War II than we had in World War I. What Herr Goebbels, along with many others, failed to understand, was how the improvement in railway plant and equipment over the last 20 years, plus the more intensive utilization of that equipment, had transformed the 1,800,000 cars of 1942 into the equivalent of more than double that number. This discussion may be concluded with a brief presentation of the picture in terms of freight cars—a presentation which shows that while Herr Goebbels' figures were correct, his conclusions were fantastically wrong.

In round figures, the number of freight cars available in 1918 was 2,400,000; in 1942, 1,800,000.

But the 1942 cars had an average capacity 25% greater than those of 1918. This raises their aggregate capacity in terms of 1918 cars, to 2,250,000.

Moreover, the modern freight car is loaded 10% nearer to capacity than that of World War I. This raises the figure again, this time to 2,475,000.

But, what is even more important, the average freight car today is moved 50% faster, with less terminal and loading and unloading delays. In other words, it makes three round trips for every two made by its 1918 predecessor. Which is simply another way of saying that, instead of boasting but 1,800,000 freight cars (1918 type and efficiency) the railroads, at the beginning of the second World War actually had, for all practical purposes, 3,712,000."

Can anyone believe that the rails will slip back to their lackadaisical methods of the middle thirties, evidenced by lack of interest on the part of the Louisville & Nashville and Southern to the Monon, of the Canadian Pacific to the Soo, or even within the larger roads themselves, where "seniority" and "conformity" was fighting an "entrenching battle"? I certainly don't! Rather, the rejuvenation of railroad management and the aggressiveness displayed in this period will carry on into the future.

A year ago, at this conference, I had the good fortune to deliver a very prophetic talk entitled "The Dawn of a New Day in Railroad Security Valuations." At that time we spoke of the importance of public psychology in markets and, of course, at that time the public were still, for the most part, antagonistic to rails. We predicted though, as has happened so many times before, this psychology would change to accept the rails.

You well remember the talk during the late thirties regarding the unknown quantity represented by railroad liens. The Bankruptcy Act itself had been conceived on compromise theory lines, and the difficulty of getting interest payments on even the best of our defaulted liens, while the properties were being rehabilitated, had the effect of causing our primary buying spots, namely, insurance companies, banks and trust accounts, to avoid railroad securities for their needs.

A year ago we were very concerned about the forthcoming Supreme Court decision. In our opinion, the future of railroad securities as investments depended on the "right" decision.

Based on our faith in good railroad liens, we predicted a year ago, also, that the Supreme Court would absolutely uphold the priorities. Of incalculable importance in the acceptance of railroad securities was the clear-cut Supreme Court decision of last March upholding priorities. Even after the decision came out, the general regard and respect for **good** railroad liens had sunk to such a low level—practically non-existent—that we were amazed that during 1943, subsequent to the decision, the green light to purchase securities of quality had been so overlooked by the backbone of our investing market. This possibly was due to the fact that there was a real lack of parallel in other industries. However, with the crying need for income and appreciation, it still does not fully excuse the people who should have had a clear understanding of the message conveyed by the Supreme Court decision.

In a very simple exposition, a few figures seem pertinent, but bear in mind that the investment rise in the better quality bonds has been on the basis of permanent investment, and the Supreme Court decision mentioned before is in a large way responsible for the comeback. But go back to 1932. At the beginning of that year the railroad industry had a net working capital (adjusted to present forms) of only $148,000,000. The debt was $11,830,000,000, so that the net working capital on the debt showed only about 1¼%, with lean earnings and short-term debt ahead! Subsequently, at the end of 1933 and 1934, the net working capital had declined to an average of only $24,000,000. That's thinner than the butcher cuts baloney.

The situation today is so completely changed that the comparison staggers one. As of Nov. 30, 1943, the net working capital had increased to $1,784,000,000. If the reorganizations were completed, we would have a debt of less than $8,000,000,000, and this figure should be reduced still further during 1944, despite the fact that many railroads may decide not to continue their debt reduction programs so heavily as has been the case.

At any rate, the figure of $8,000,000,000 of debt is good enough for our calculations, and the net working capital to debt would be in the ratio of 22%, that's almost 18 times 1932. I don't think you have to go any further than that to build up a case, but just to complete the cycle, railroad debt to investment in 1932 was about 45%, whereas on the basis of $8,000,000,000 it would be about 30%. Certainly, the industry is not going to be overcapitalized on any basis such as this (especially when you consider the better plant today).

The railroads still have tremendous tax advantages. You saw two months ago what happened to Delaware & Hudson when they sold one mine and saved themselves $2,700,000 in taxes (not exact, but good enough for our purposes). This undoubtedly will be magnified many times. The railroads are huge corporations and they have, as a rule, a number of subsidiary corporations, which in many cases had lain dormant all during the depression. Practically speaking, the book values are fictitious, and I think during the course of this year you will be amazed many times by the sales of properties and the corresponding cash increases, but, more important, the much larger amounts of taxes saved on the sales.

Likewise, the railroads have other tax and financial advantages. A few years ago, the only extra cash that came in was in the excess of depreciation over equipment maturities, and this averaged about $135,000,000. Depreciation was the means whereby a number of railroads during the thirties managed to stay solvent. Today, in addition to excess depreciation of equipment ($90,000,000), we have wartime amortization, which reduces earnings by about $145,000,000 (December rate of $200,000,000) a year and saves the taxes to that extent. As a rule, this will run out, in 1946 and 1947, but the equipment that will be fully depreciated by that time will be good for many years to come. Also, beginning in 1943, the railroads started to make depreciation charges on certain items of way and structures. This will run pretty close to $105,000,000, which is also a very sizable figure.

The net result of all this is that, whereas the cash coming in in years prior to 1940 was a comparatively small sum, the figure today is much larger (over $350,000,000). I would not worry either about wage costs. I do not mean to be flippant about this but I do not believe it has a place in this year's calculations. If any of you read our green booklet of last September on the "Railroads in Peace-Time" you may remember that we said that since the last war there had been a definite trend towards transportation rates based on out-of-pocket costs and in this field, in our opinion, the railroads had every natural advantage.

In my opinion, the trucking menace will not be a "scare" factor as in the past. The truck lines are hard put today to make both ends meet, and many truckers are running at 100% operating ratio. According to the ICC 57th Annual Report to Congress, the trucking industry in 1942 had an operating ratio of 94.24%. (In 1943 the truck ratio of expenses to gross before taxes was probably close to 96%). Since 1942, the large discounts formerly obtainable on oil, gas and tires have gone by the boards, **but the increase in wages** given by the railroads bodes ill for trucking wage costs with their slim margins in the future. We think free coordination of rails and trucks will come in the after-war period.

The same wage squeeze is applicable to the coast and intercoast steamships. Even prior to the war emergency a number of coastal companies, such as the Clyde-Mallory Steamship Company, suspended operations, due primarily to the heavy wage costs, and despite the surplus of ships after the war, I believe strongly that boat rates will be much higher comparatively as against rail rates than was the case. Furthermore, it will be a long time before they come back, because of the extensive repairs necessary after their war-time beatings, and probably the lack of materials obtainable for some time.

It was quite clear to us, along about Dec. 1, that the markets were in a long-term uptrend. As a guide, also, using both junior solvent bonds and defaults, we found that under cover of plain acknowledgement of the facts, the rails were building a platform to take a big jump.

Let me show you what two groups did. Tracing two groups (one junior solvents and the other defaults) through three "peace" markets—the first in May-June, 1942, the second the "Mussolini" market of last July, and the third the "sure" peace market of last November, we found every reason for encouragement. Incidentally, there is less optimism over an early peace than at any time since the war started. Maybe it will come when we least expect it. We certainly hope so.

At any rate, what we saw led us to believe that "peace" was not likely to cause a breakdown in rail values. Progress was the order of the day, despite all the loose talk to the contrary. In the solvent field our list hit a high of 63.74% in the Spring of 1942 and declined 14.1% in the May-June selloff. By June 1, 1943 (the high to that point) the market had risen to 74.89, and then declined 7.2% (only half of the previous break despite the higher level). In November, from approximately the same former high, it broke only 4.1%. In each case the "break" was about half as severe as the former one. Now, these bonds are around the 84.40 level, or 20.6 points higher than in 1942 (a gain of 32.4%).

In defaults, there's a strikingly close parallel. The 1942 selloff amounted to 27% from a price of only 26.04. The July, 1943, "break" was 14% (almost half the former one) from a price of 45, and the November decline averaged 11% from a slightly higher plateau.

Notice also, that each percentage loss in the defaults was just about twice as severe as the solvents.

The answer was clear to us that the trend was definitely upwards.

The leverage in the rails just can't help permanenty improving their structures. This is the year of acceptance!

All in all, now it is "credit" that is the topic of chief discussion. What else but "credit" has caused the tremendous lifting in prices since March 1, 1943? At that time we had bonds like Southern Pacific refundings at 81½, Baltimore & Ohio 1st 4s at 68, B. Q. generals at 92½, B. Q. 4½s, at 73, Pere Marquette 5s at 80, Nickelplate 4½s at 69¼, Louisville & Nashville refunding 3¾s at 87, Southern Railway 5s at 97, Illinois Central refunding 4s at 55, North Western 1sts at 80, Wabash 1st 4s at 89, also Delaware & Hudson refundings at 61, Atlantic Coast Line 4½s at 66, all selling 8 to 26 points lower than today.

Defaults like St. Paul golds were 24; Missouri Pacific 5s, 43; Rock Island refundings, 24; New Haven "converts," 43; Western Pacific 5s, 41; St. Paul General 4½s, 49.

In the defaults, the present prices, likewise, reflect to a large extent the new credit ratings. Earnings, of course, have played a large part in this picture, but we had seen peak earnings in 1942, and yet prices were very low.

What else caused the strength in rails through January and February, while industrials were off? How does any skeptic (or for that matter, anybody else) explain the non-arresting rise in railroad securities since December?—especially in the face of the recent large wage award and the widespread talk of much lower earnings.

Certainly, the wage increase talk put a dent in the market every time it bobbed up last year at a much lower price level, yet despite some bearish forecasts by certain agencies when the settlement was made the market moved ahead in unprecedented fashion. Industrial stocks had given a very poor performance, to a large extent because of the tax impost, but, here again, railroad securities have moved forward in spite of increased regular tax accruals likely this year.

While on the subject of Vanishing American Hysteria, why has the market moved so precipitately upwards in spite of the sky-plastered publicity about a Spring invasion? What's happened to the "What's gonna happeners?"

There seems only one real answer—a return of credit. True, despite taxes (which may have some surprising offsets) we still will see large earnings, but if there were not a solid foundation of genuine belief in the ability of the roads to survive in the future you would not have witnessed insurance company, trust, savings bank and bank buying.

The answer must be credit! In the opinion of many **qualified** analysts (who, incidentally, do their own thinking) the credit of many roads is likely to be restored to its former ranking.

These discerning and realistic people know that mile for mile the railroads are better now then they ever have been, and investors are getting an overflowing measure of investment value for every dollar they put in. But more about this later.

Well, to return to the market. In the face of an ever-decreasing supply of good mortgage bonds, these institutions come into the market and relieve the public and the uninformed of the "cream" of the railroad field at low prices. This creates buying power which, in some cases, comes back into the market. However, the persistent lifting in values in the underlying field also is reflected in lower quality bonds and finally in stocks.

What's going to happen to our defaults as they complete reorganization? The insurance companies will take the firsts, the investors may keep the incomes, and the stocks may be sold, or even held if they cost "nothing." The point is that the cumulative effects of money-making in the market extends throughout the whole allied list of railroad securities.

While on the subject, the action of railroad stocks also nestles in nicely with credit. In 1942, Southern Pacific, for instance, earned $21.28, yet the stock didn't sell above 18½. In 1943, it earned $15.47, yet sold up to 30½. Starting in 1944, the stock has already sold as high as in 1943, despite the prediction for lower earnings. The answer is that, if Southern Pacific's credit is accepted as being a good one, the stock will sell much higher on much lower earnings. You can find parallels all through the stock list.

Assuming, therefore, that credit is on the mend and will be universally acknowledged in the case of many roads, it is impossible to say how long the market will keep ascending. It's like Moran and Mack's old question, "How high is up?"

A more definite answer would be, **"If railroad credit turns out to be real, prices are still very low!"** The only barrier would be the "social standing" of each carrier superimposed on the quality of each divisional bond.

Therefore, despite the gasps of amazement over the railroad security performances, it is my belief that if "credit" is only half real as a factor, prices will still go higher.

There is a tremendous business lesson to all this that you should not miss. Practically in one year you have had the business experience of twenty. The lesson of the last year should be invaluable to you. You have learned that the public's fancy does change either way, and you have witnessed the experience of seeing the securities of a whole industry go from the depths of nonacceptance to popular demand. You saw the industry decline for a period of 10 or 12 years, and in a couple of years saw it come a long way back the trail. I trust the lesson is not lost.

Well, we are almost finished with the introduction. But—don't forget consolidations. They're ahead for the future. Not this year or 1945, but they are on the way. You're going to have all the roads at least on speaking terms with one another, whereas in 1930, for instance, you had the Union Pacifics way up in the air and the Seaboards, Norfolk Southerns, Central Georgias, etc., down in the dumps. Consolidation was out of the question, but consolidation will be a future factor. Lest you forget—consolidations make big markets.

Isn't it nice to get up in the morning in daylight? It's the same way with the rails. After 10 years of darkness we see light in the sky again. Each passing day brings more sunshine. All our hopes for a complete turn-around in the rails seem to be reaching fulfillment. Naturally, we were happy during 1941-42 and '43 about the results attained in defaults, but, nevertheless, there was something big lacking.

Without a real and genuine demand steadily emanating from our institutions, banks and similar buyers, we never could have expected the market to go beyond certain definite limits.

Now, I feel like a man rescued after a number of days from a mine cave-in. The sunlight sort of blinds me, even though I know I'm not dreaming.

Does anyone have an answer that does adequate justice to the enigmatic upward surge of railroad securities at a time when they seemingly were wearing out their time with the approach of the war's end?

I have given a lot of thought to this question and, for what you may consider it worth, I wish to present the only explanation that adds up to anything. In one word, the answer is "credit"—that's the final word, but as part of this heading we should also insert the word—"confidence."

Confidence in the ability of the railroads to get their share of business in the post-war period, because the outstanding performance now being given is coming to be more and more appreciated. In a long war the best transportation system wins and that is what we've got in the railroads. The inference is clear, then, that the industry is not decadent. That's the first step in the "confidence and credit" cycle.

If, then, the industry in the future will function as it has in the past, the next conclusion would be that under certain debt conditions "credit" or "investment caliber" might be stamped or attached to various systems and liens according to the degree of safety. It will still be up to the investor to be careful in his selections, however.

More and more, many investors are coming to the conclusion that "credit" is definitely and surely coming back to many railroads.

There is no need to enlarge on these few thoughts—you either accept them or reject them. At any rate, what I have touched on is the only plausible conclusion that I have come to regarding the recent outstanding railroad security performances.

This is the thought I would leave with you.

Mutual Funds

(Continued from page 1213)

their views known to their Federal and State legislators. . . ."

(Full text of article appears in this issue, starting on page 1202.)

* * *

In the current issue of **The New York Letter, Hugh W. Long and Co.** presents "The Case for Optimism." It is a well presented case and takes the robust note: "We doubt that X-day (the day of Germany's defeat) will catch American industry with its plants down."

Investors Mutual reports net assets at a new high on March 14, when the fund passed the $30,000,000 mark. As Mr. Earl B. Crabb, Chairman of the Board of Directors, points out, the fund was inaugurated Jan. 18, 1940, with an original investment of $100,000 by Investors Syndicate, investment manager and principal underwriter.

A new folder on **General Bond Shares** has been mailed to dealers by **Distributors Group.** "Generous Income from Seasoned Investments" is the title of the folder which points out that "Most of the old familiar and time-tested ways of obtaining a stable income of 5% or more are no longer available to investors." The field of investment affording this type of income today is narrowed down to selected corporation bonds of the type held by General Bond Shares.

* * *

Massachusetts Distributors current issue of **Brevits** discusses the propriety of a trustee investing trust funds in the shares of an open-end investment fund.

"It has been suggested," states the memorandum, "that a trustee cannot delegate the management of his trust pro tanto to persons over whom he has no control. This argument, if pursued to a logical conclusion, would prevent investments in stocks of any corporations because any such investment would involve a delegation of authority as to the management of the investment to the directors." The article then cites the opinion of Mayo A. Shattuck, one of the the best-known authorities on trustee practice.

"It can be argued, with a good deal of force, that a trustee delegates no more of his authority in purchasing shares of . . . open-end investment companies than he delegates when he purchases, for example, the shares of a bank stock or insurance stock, or even of a stock like DuPont, whose earnings are dependent, in part at least, upon the earnings of another great industrial company. It can also be said that the management charge is no more open to objection than the salary account of a . . . public utility holding company, or the compensation which a trustee often pays to an expert in one or another of the fields of human enterprise —such fields, for example, as law, accounting (and) engineering. . . ."

Investment Literature

A. W. Smith & Co.—A new prospectus on **General Investors Trust.** . . . **Calvin Bullock**—the March issue of **Perspective,** containing an analysis of Automobiles: Post-War Outlook. . . . **Lord, Abbett**—A revised portfolio folder on **Union Common Stock Fund "B."** . . . **Selected Investments Co.**—A recent issue of **Selections,** discussing the improved tax position of investment companies under the Federal Revenue Act of 1943. Also a memorandum showing the current diversification of **Selected American Shares.** . . . **National Securities & Research Corp.**—A revised folder on **National Preferred Stock Series** and a new issue of the leaflet, "A Check from Invested Capital Every Month of the Year." . . . **Hare's Ltd.**—A leaflet discussing "The Upward Trend of Bank Earnings."

Bank And Insurance Stocks

(Continued from page 1215)

are shown, also the approximate current market prices.

BOOK VALUE PER SHARE

	Dec. 31, 1939	Dec. 31, 1943	Approximate Curr. Market
Baltimore			
First National	$26.75	$30.55	$59
Boston			
First National	41.11	43.35	51½
National Shawmut	38.63	39.09	26⅜
Chicago			
*Continental-Illinois	63.39	72.45	95¼
†First National	229.84	186.38	234
Harris Trust & Savings	290.62	337.96	397
Northern Trust	450.76	507.27	615
Cleveland			
Cleveland Trust	137.57	184.45	160
National City	31.46	36.14	33½
Los Angeles			
Security First National	35.42	45.83	54¼
Philadelphia			
Corn Exchange	60.51	63.10	52½
Fidelity Philadelphia Trust	307.72	315.16	220
Girard Trust	36.46	40.34	50
Pennsylvania Company	27.30	27.60	38
Philadelphia National	60.42	70.97	113
Pittsburgh			
First National	41.55	46.72	40½
St. Louis			
First National	31.99	35.38	45
San Francisco			
American Trust	45.02	50.35	47¾
Bank of America	29.21	32.25	50¼
Wells Fargo	197.27	206.20	305

*1,500,000 shares in 1939; 1,800,000 in 1943. †30,000 shares in 1939; 50,000 in 1943.

As in the case of New York City banks, these banks also have experienced tremendous expansion in their deposits and in their holdings of United States Government bonds. Their ratios of deposits to capital funds have increased, in many instances, to abnormally high figures. The average ratio of the 20 banks as of December 31, 1939 was 12.8, and as of December 31, 1943, 18.3. The most conservative ratios are those of Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Co., viz: 6.5 in 1939 and 7.4 in 1943. The highest ratios are those of Northern Trust Co. of Chicago, viz: 27.4 in 1939 and 34.1 in 1943. The greatest change in ratio was experienced by Cleveland Trust whose ratio doubled from 11.1 in 1939 to 22.7 in 1943.

Now Empire Steel Corp.

The name of Empire Sheet and Tin Plate Co. has been changed to Empire Steel Corporation, according to announcement by James M. Hill, President. The company discontinued tin plate production several years ago and Mr. Hill pointed out the new name more accurately describes the nature of the company's business.

He also announced that the par value of the common capital stock was changed from no par value to $10 par.

This announcement is not an offer of securities for sale or a solicitation of an offer to buy securities.

New Issue March 23, 1944

$7,500,000

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Dillon, Read & Co.

The First Boston Corporation Blyth & Co., Inc.

Kidder, Peabody & Co. Shields & Company

Post-War Taxes

(Continued from page 1202)

the resolution, bringing the total which have thus acted to fourteen. These States, and the order of their adoption, are as follows:

Wyoming
Rhode Island
Mississippi
Iowa
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Indiana
Arkansas
Delaware
Pennsylvania
Illinois
Wisconsin
Alabama

The resolution is now, or soon will be, before the Legislatures in New York, Kentucky, South Carolina, Louisiana and New Jersey, where it recently passed in the Senate and awaits House action.

Those advocating the measure hope for favorable action by these five States in regular session and also by half a dozen States which are expected to hold special sessions. If a majority of States can thus been listed in 1944, perhaps Congress, impressed by this show of strength and without waiting for the compulsory action of 32 States, would voluntarily submit the amendment to all the States for final ratification when they are in session in 1945.

The movement is being strongly supported by the Committee for Constitutional Government, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, and by the Western Tax Council, 30 North La Salle Street, Chicago.

Effect on National Revenue

Probably a natural question is: would such a restriction as the proposed amendment on the taxing power of Congress jeopardize the Federal Government's future revenue? As individual income taxes provide a major proportion of the Federal income an answer may be supplied in examining the returns for a normal year. In 1940, for example, an aggregate of income before taxes of only $1.685 billions was earned by individuals who paid more than 25% of their income in taxes. Their total income tax was $707 millions, and under a 25% tax ceiling it would have been $421 millions, indicating a theoretical loss in revenue of only $286 millions, the largest for any year of the period from 1920 to 1940, inclusive.

The maximum individual rate was lowered from 76% to 25% by three tax reductions after the first World War, and at each downward step more revenue was produced.

The Point of Diminishing Returns

Excessively high tax rates on incomes, it is maintained, are self-defeating so far as the obtaining of revenue is concerned, and there is a point of diminishing returns beyond which the revenue produced is less rather than greater. President Wilson in his 1918 message to Congress said:

"The Congress might well consider whether the higher rates of income and profits taxes can in peacetime be effectively productive of revenue, and whether they may not, on the contrary, be destructive of business activity and productive of waste and inefficiency. There is a point at which, in peactime, high rates of income and profits taxes discourage energy, remove the incentive to new enterprise, encourage extravagant expenditures, and produce industrial stagnation with consequent unemployment and other attendant evils."

Double Taxation

Another greatly needed reform is the ending of double taxation of corporate income. This consists in the present system of an income tax on corporate earnings at the source, paid by the corporation, and another tax on the same earnings, paid by the individuals receiving them in the form of dividends. Bond interest is deductible as an expense and hence is not subject to corporate tax.

There is mounting objection to this system of double taxation, first on the ground that it is not equitable. Professor Sumner H. Slichter of Harvard University last week made the succinct comment:

"Income derived from giving jobs is taxed twice, whereas income derived from holding jobs or lending capital is taxed only once. By various devices severe penalties are placed upon anyone who presumes to make a living by bearing the brunt of economic risks."

Aside from violating the principle of equity and justice, however, the system has other adverse effects: financing by corporations through bond rather than stock issues is artificially favored, encouraging top-heavy corporate financial structures; as individual proprietorships and partnerships are not subject to double taxation, the corporate form of business operation is discriminated against; purchase of stocks for investment by wealthy investors is discouraged, greatly curtailing the market for corporate equities; and reasonable dividend distributions are discouraged by influential shareholders subject to heavy double taxation.

Active in the movement to eliminate double taxation is the Investors Fairplay League, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, headed by B. C. Forbes, who says:

"Double taxation does not remotely conform with 'ability to pay,' since the humblest widow who has her money invested in a corporation stock has had deducted from her income exactly the same rate as the richest stockholder in the company."

Suggested Remedies

Great Britain has dealt with this problem by making the normal tax the same for both individuals and corporations. The corporation has the alternative of paying the 50% normal tax on all its income and distributing tax-free dividends (the recipients remaining liable for surtax), or paying no normal tax on that portion of its earnings distributed in dividends, which are subject to normal and surtax in shareholders' hands.

Opinions differ as to the proper remedy in this country. One remedy suggested is a Revenue Act amendment providing that dividend income be exempt from personal normal and surtax up to 40%, the total rate paid by corporations on income other than excess profits. Another is a provision that corporate taxes should be abolished on the distributed portion of earnings, so that corporate income would be taxed only once, either as part of stockholders' income, or as a levy on reinvested earnings.

Congress in the 1942 Revenue Act recognized the necessity for eliminating double taxation of regulated investment companies' distributed income and realized profits by making them non-taxable to the companies.

Capital Gains Taxes

Another tax peculiar to this country (Britain has none) is the capital gains tax, the elimination of which would remove another factor discouraging the employment of venture capital. The individual or enterprise, in a simple case, takes all the loss and keeps only part of the profit.

This tax in reality is not an income tax, but a capital levy, contingent entirely upon the taxpayer's disposing of a capital asset at a profit. It has hindered and reduced capital investments and discouraged those with profits from realizing them, and has produced disappointing returns to the Treasury (only $12 millions in 1940).

Extending far beyond the securities markets, it hits every business man who makes a capital investment of any kind. Its chilling effect is as great on the price of real estate as it is on securities. Failing its complete repeal, the holding period should be abolished and the rate of tax sharply reduced to encourage taking capital gains. Emil Schram, President of the New York Stock Exchange, has been active in presenting many practical reasons for this reform.

Excess Profits Taxes

With the termination of the war opinion is almost unanimous that the excess profits tax will be repealed since, as its name implies, it is a tax originally intended solely for abnormal profits due to war conditions.

Perhaps this tax can be regarded as not an entirely unmixed evil since the law also includes the provisions for the two-year carry back and carry over of unused excess profits tax credits and of net operating losses. If post-war earnings of a corporation decline below the pre-war level or if operations become unprofitable, the effect of the refund of part of wartime excess profits taxes may prove actually to turn a sizable loss in the immediate post-war years into a satisfactory profit, enough to maintain payrolls and dividend payments despite losses from current operations. An extension of the carry back and carry over period from two to five years is advocated as being fairer to corporations with widely fluctuating earnings, as it would in effect tax average earnings.

Capital Stock and Declared Value Excess Profits Taxes

A movement has been initiated in Congress for the repeal of the capital stock and declared value excess profits taxes; these measures are more conspicuous as nuisances than revenue producers, an objectionable feature being the enforced necessity for guessing at figures in declarations to avoid subsequent taxes. Elimination of these taxes would have saved corporations an estimated amount of over $250,000,000 in taxes in 1942.

Conclusion

For the American free enterprise system to function to its greatest efficiency after the war certain tax reforms will be necessary. Some elements now tending in this direction are the proposed 22nd Amendment limiting to a rate of 25% taxes on incomes, inheritances and gifts, already approved in 14 States, and the growing movement to eliminate double taxation of corporate income, the capital gains tax, the excess profits tax, and the capital stock and declared value excess profits taxes.

Corporate executives and individual investors can aid to bring about these tax reforms by making their views known to their Federal and State legislators. A solution of the tax problems as mentioned herein will be a great incentive to business and the individual initiative so necessary for our post-war economy.—From "Investment Timing" of March 16 issued by the Economics & Investment Department of the National Securities & Research Corporation, New York City.

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Tomorrow's Markets Walter Whyte Says——

(Continued from page 1208)

and everything is nice and cheerful. The public, acting on the assumption that nothing succeeds like success, is right in there buying stock after stock at advancing prices.

* * *

While the public is bidding for them it might be interesting to step back to see who is doing all the selling. Of course, there is switching going on by the investment trusts. But in at least one group, the oils, it's not switching. The largest oil holders in the country have been liquidating their old stock holdings for weeks. It doesn't show itself on weak days, but on strong days it stands out like a black eye at a pink tea.

* * *

Current talk has it that a reaction is out of the question because of two elements: Cash buying and more liberal interpretation of Government toward business. Taking the latter first, there is no evidence of such liberality. Yes, you have a rebellious Congress off on a vote-getting spree. But it's antics do more harm than good. So far as cash buying is concerned all you have to do is ask some of the leading houses how their debits stand. A reliable source informs me that debits are now back to where they were July, 1943, when the market was at 146 and a high fraction. Less than two months later, the market was down to about 130. Reducing debits to a percentage, last July they were at 100. Today, with the averages about 141 (five points under the July tops), debits are at 99.0.

* * *

The whole thing adds up to the conclusion that the market is presently engaged in making a broad top. This doesn't mean that a reaction will start right away. On the contrary, a setback of about two points can easily be followed by another rally to last week's highs. But, looking at the entire picture, this looks hardly like the time to do any buying.

* * *

For the speculator who can move fast enough to take advantage of a minor and a rally on which to get out on, the following stocks and prices recommend themselves: American Car & Fdry., 36, stop 35; American Loco., 16, stop 15; Bendix, 35, stop 34; J. I. Case, 36, stop 34; Electric Auto-Lite, 39, stop 37; National Lead, 20, stop 19; United Aircraft, 28, stop 27; U. S. Steel, 50, stop 49, and Youngstown Sheet & Tube, 37, stop 35.

You may still be holding American Steel Founders; if you are, then the stop is now raised to 26.

* * *

More next Thursday.

—Walter Whyte

[*The views expressed in this article do not necessarily at any time coincide with those of the Chronicle. They are presented as those of the author only.*]

Interesting Situation

Steady and substantial growth in earnings of the "Utility Group" have increased the speculative attraction of both the Prior Lien and Plain Preferred stocks of New England Public Service Company according to a detailed circular on the situation prepared by Ira Haupt & Co., 111 Broadway, New York City, members of the New York Stock Exchange and other leading national exchanges. Copies of this interesting circular may be had from Ira Haupt & Co. upon request.

Alleghany Corporation is also attractive from a speculative viewpoint, a recent circular issued by the firm indicates. Copies of this also may be had upon request.

N. Y. Analysts To Hear

On Friday, March 24, at the regular meeting of the New York Society of Security Analysts, Inc., there will be a round table discussion of the market outlook for holding company and special situation securities. Leader will be E. Ralph Sterling of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane.

On Monday, March 27, the Society will hear Joseph Stagg Lawrence, Vice-President of the Empire Trust Company, on "Taxation —Today's Burden, Tomorrow's Prospects."

Meetings are held at 56 Broad Street, New York City, at 12:30 p.m.

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GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Foreign Trade And Currency Stabilization Problems Discussed

(Continued from page 1202)

peril to our economic health.

"So long as we need and want products of other lands we shall have foreign trade, and no set of restrictions will entirely choke it off. There seems to be no good reason to choke it off, but on the other hand a good many reasons why we should encourage it.

"There are reasons of immediate and obvious self-interest. We need to buy and we need to sell. We need to buy products that we don't grow, make or dig. In spite of progress in synthetics we shall probably want to go back to heavy imports of crude rubber. We shall have to continue to get our tin from abroad and to make the high-speed and specialty steels that modern industry and transport demand we shall have to import 40 different commodities from more than 50 countries. We need asbestos, nitrates, chrome ore, flax fiber and various kinds of wools. These are basic materials for manufacture, but the list is long when we get into the field of consumer wants with such items as coffee and tea, tropic fruits and nuts, and a great variety of food products. We want also, though we may not need them so badly, cheeses from Holland, china from Great Britain and Sweden, linen from Ireland, laces from Belgium, watches from Switzerland, and no doubt again rare wines and objects of art, beauty and utility from France. We want rugs and other textiles from the near and the Far East and works of art and handicraft from the remotest mountains and valleys and deserts of all the continents.

"These things we would not give up without a wrench to our economy and our mode of living, nor could we give up our exports without difficulties probably just as serious.

"Although normally we sell abroad less than 10% of our output of movable goods, that 10% is vitally important. The significance of the foreign markets must be judged, not on the basis of the magnitude alone, but in terms of the crucial position of the foreign market in certain industries and the indirect effects that loss of these markets would have on other industries. The tobacco leaf industry in 1938, for example, exported 57% of its total production, the cotton industry 43%, and the aircraft industry 62%. The foreign market is also very large for machinery, petroleum, autos, iron and steel, chemicals and wheat, to mention only a few of the most important.

"Exports, too, will assume an added importance for us in the immediate post-war years. This country will be faced with the job of reconverting from war to peace-time production. Since the process of manufacturing a steel ingot is the same whether it is to be fashioned into a tank or a locomotive, the conversion problem will be considerably lighter if the industries producing capital goods can expect a continuing market for their output. It may be expected that for a considerable time other countries of the world will need urgently the machine tools and capital equipment that this country will be in an excellent position to provide.

"Considerations of direct and obvious self-interest thus dictate for us a policy of trying to open up and to keep open to the maximum degree the channels of foreign trade after the war. We can profit by exporting our special skills and products and by importing the special skills and products of other countries. But there are other less obvious and direct advantages that are in the long run probably even more important. Few other countries are as nearly self-contained economically as we. For most of them the life of their populations on any decent level of subsistence depends on the ability to export and to import. This is as true of countries with a high organization of industry as of countries which are mainly sources of minerals and agricultural products. It is true of Great Britain, of Sweden, of Brazil. As to some countries the export of services such as shipping means the difference between depression and prosperity. For many of these countries the United States is the major market, and they also constitute important markets for us.

"One of the most striking facts about the modern world is its increasing economic interdependence. One of the by-products of that interdependence is that prosperity can be exported and so can depressions. If we trade with other lands we are to a considerable degree subject to economic influences at work in them. We have a stake in world prosperity, in a general high level of well-being. We have an economic stake, and also a political one, for economic pressures may and do produce political explosions. If we mean to avoid other world wars on the heels of this one we must lose no time in building the economic foundations that will make continuing world peace possible.

"Some people have such great faith in the automatic mechanisms of economic life as to believe that no planned overt action is needed for the restoration of international trade, that the world will go back to the happy position of some blessed year in the past if only left to the devices of the individual business man. Hopes such as these ignore completely the experience so painfully acquired during the decades between the two wars. Those years taught us that no nation can avoid assuming some responsibility for the economic life and trade of its citizens. We can choose the economic warfare of the 1930's, when the nations of the world undertook to handle world trade and currency problems independently, or we can benefit by this experience and lay our plans for solutions which do not so clearly lead to decreasing trade and lower standards of living.

"From the high tariff policies of the late boom years until the outbreak of the present conflict, the major countries were engaged in practices which seriously diminished the volume of world commerce and prosperity. Politically, we were officially at peace during these years, but economic warfare was being waged continuously. Although no single country was wholly to blame, all were shortsighted. Nations attempted to achieve economic recovery at each other's expense. By means of quotas, tariffs, exchange controls, and competitive depreciation of currencies, countries undertook to export unemployment. These measures provided temporary relief until the countries discriminated against followed suit. The volume of world trade declined rapidly and all suffered.

"Competitive exchange depreciation is an evil which snowballs. The actions of specific countries and groups of countries in cutting the value of their currencies—actions which often could not be avoided without help which was not obtainable—created pressures on other countries to do the same. Exchange dealers, understanding the incentive to further depreciation, were encouraged to speculate and thus contributed to the flights from specific currencies which were developing because of the growing monetary instability. The whole pattern of exchange relationships, so slowly reconstructed after the last war, was endangered, and the situation became one of serious monetary disorder.

"In addition, another development took place which further diminished the volume of world commerce. Nations, if they are to buy abroad, must pay for their purchases in one of three ways: with gold and foreign exchange, or with money obtained by selling their own products in foreign countries, or with money obtained by borrowing. Since no country is able or willing to permit a gold outflow indefinitely and the depression had considerably decreased the opportunities of selling abroad, foreign loans and credits were very important in determining the level of world trade.

"After 1928, however, this last avenue for the acquisition of foreign exchange was virtually closed. The attraction of our own stock market for the investment funds of American and foreign investors was one of the reasons for the pre-depression decline. Unsettled political conditions and the depression were responsible for the reluctance of investors in subsequent years. The result was a further decline in the export markets of all nations.

"Thus the problems we shall have to face after the war are not merely those created by the war itself, but in large part they are the heritage of the years of depression and economic warfare which preceded it. We shall face a world disorganized, exhausted and in many areas devastated by war. The occupied areas and those which have been the battlefields will require economic assistance on a tremendous scale. UNRRA, the international relief organization, will provide for the most urgent needs, but relief will hardly be sufficient in view of the devastation of Europe and the thoroughness with which the occupied nations have been plundered of machinery and other capital equipment. Immediate positive action will be necessary to prevent economic stagnation and the social and political unrest which would follow upon it.

"For some years after the war few countries will have the surplus commodities which can be used to pay for imports. Until such time as these nations can again make use of their full productive capacity, extensive international credits must be provided. We may reasonably expect that the required volume of short-term capital will be made available by th ecommercial banks and trading houses. Industrialists and foreign traders are already making plans to resume their usual exports and to extend generous credits to their customers. It is also likely that there will be a rapid resumption of direct investments in industrial enterprises abroad in the form of subsidiaries and branch plants.

"In addition, the world normally counts on a considerable volume of long-term credits to bring about a large and balanced international trade. As much as one-fourth of the exports of the large industrial countries has been paid for in ordinary times with funds provided through foreign investment. In the post-war period, long-term credits will also be required for reconstruction, for reconversion to peace-time production, and for the development of economically backward areas.

"For many reasons it is unlikely that private investors will provide an adequate supply of long-term capital. In view of the losses suffered on foreign securities and the restrictions imposed on the withdrawal of earnings in the last decade before the war, private investors may reasonably exercise considerable caution. The uncertain business conditions which will undoubtedly prevail for a number of years will also serve to discourage long-term lending.

"Only with some assistance, therefore, can private investors be expected to satisfy the unprecedented capital requirements of the post-war world. An institution is needed which can encourage private investors and share their risks. To meet this need the United Nations have begun discussions which look forward to the establishment of an international agency designed to facilitate the extension of long-term credits. A tentative plan for a Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been formulated by the technical staffs of the Treasury and other departments and agencies of this Government.

"The proposed bank would be a permanent inter-governmental institution designed to encourage and aid international investment through the usual investment channels. It is intended to make no loans or investments which can be made by private investors on reasonable terms. In those cases in which borrowers could not secure loans for productive purposes without aid, the bank would guarantee the loans made by private investors. Where market conditions made it difficult to secure all of the funds from private investors, the bank might participate in loans made through the customary channels. It might also supplement the private capital market by making loans itself if capital for productive purposes was otherwise not obtainable. In all of its operations the bank would lay great stress on the productivity of the project to be financed. While the bank would be interested in seeing adequate capital made available for productive purposes, it would encourage only sound loans on which the borrower would be able to pay interest and principal.

"The existence and operations of the proposed investment bank would be a powerful stimulus to the revival of private international lending and trade. It would not, however, do the whole job alone. If private enterprise is to take hold quickly, investors and traders must confidently expect the restoration of stability and balance and a greater degree of freedom in international economic relations. There must be explicit assurance that the monetary collapse which followed the last war in many countries will not be permitted, and secondly, that the restrictions which hampered trade and the withdrawal of earnings will be abandoned as quickly as posisble.

"To accomplish these purposes another international agency is currently under discussion by the technicians of the United Nations. In this case the proposal is for a permanent International Stabilization Fund designed to prevent undesirable currency fluctuations. The Fund would also have as a major function the removal of the monetary restrictions on trade which developed during the depression and the war.

"Both functions are extremely important. Monetary stability does not mean that exchange rates will be pegged for all time with no fluctuations permitted, but rather that exchange rates must move only when essential to establish orderly and stable patterns in accordance with changes in the basic economic relationships. The Fund would require that member countries define their currencies in gold and agree not to change these relationships, except to a very moderate degree, unless the change had been approved by the Fund. In turn, the Fund would help member countries maintain the value of their currencies. Member countries would also be prevented from engaging in competitive currency depreciation and from imposing exchange restrictions, except for the purpose of controlling undesirable capital movements.

"Both the bank and the fund would have no other purpose than to help create conditions under which the flow of foreign trade and productive investment between member countries would be fostered. To the extent that we succeed in creating an environment conducive to a high level of commerce, the interests of all nations will be served. Both projects are now in the area of technical discussion. To set them up will require international agreement, and of course legislation which will put the full weight of our Government behind them.

"The problems involved are international in scope. Our experience in the years between the two wars, when countries attempted to deal with these questions independently, must convince us that only through effective international cooperation can they be solved."

What's Ahead?

(Continued from First Page)

will provide for reconversion of our productive power from war material to normal consumer goods; will provide for the elimination of mass unemployment; will provide for the restoration of our standards of living, and even higher ones; will provide freedom of choice for the individual—freedom of choice which is a necessary freedom for Americans—and elbow room for every citizen to develop and achieve the economic, social, religious and even political objectives which are his desire.

It is my studied conviction that the future of our private enterprise system in postwar days—indeed, the very liberty for which we are fighting—will depend upon the ability of American business in the days ahead to match, and to match fully, production with distribution.

A high level of business activity is practically assured for the next five years. The early post-war years will be far better than any previous peacetime year in our history. This is insured by two factors—on the one hand, a tremendous accumulation of potential buying power represented by accumulated liquid assets which at the end of the war will be in excess of 100 billions, and on the other hand, a pent-up, deferred demand for goods far beyond anything we have experienced in this country.—James A. McLain, President of the Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America of this city in an address before the 24th annual sales congress of the Life Underwriters Association of New York.

Attractive Situations

Ward & Co., 120 Broadway, New York City, have prepared circulars on several situations which currently offer attractive possibilities, the firm believes. Copies of these circulars, on the following issues, may be had from Ward & Co. upon request:

Du Mont Laboratories "A"; Merchants Distilling; Crowell-Collier Publishing; P. R. Mallory; General Instrument; Long Bell Lumber Co.; Great American Industries; Mid-Continent Airlines; Richardson; Hartford Empire Co.; Massachusetts Power & Light $2 preferred; Majestic Radio; Magnavox Corp.; Brockway Motors.

Associated Gas & Electric Situation Interesting

The current situation in Associated Gas & Electric Corporation (in reorganization) offers interesting possibilities according to an analysis prepared by the New York Hanseatic Corporation, 120 Broadway, New York City. Copies of this interesting discussion may be had upon request from the New York Hanseatic Corporation.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

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There has been declared, out of the earnings of the fiscal year now current, a dividend of one and three-quarters per cent (1¾%) on the preferred capital stock of this Company, payable April 1, 1944 to the holders of record of said stock at the close of business March 27, 1944.

Transfer books will not be closed. Checks will be mailed by Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

CHARLES J. HARDY, *President*
HOWARD C. WICK, *Secretary*

March 16, 1944

FINANCIAL NOTICE

UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL

To the Holders of Dollar Bonds of United States of Brazil, its States and Municipalities:

Under date of January 3, 1944, announcement was made by the undersigned of the issue of a Decree-Law authorizing a Plan for the general and definitive regulation of the external loans of the Federal Government, as well as those of its State and Municipal Governments. It is now expected that the details of that Plan, so far as the same applies to the Dollar Loans, will be completed within the near future; whereupon public announcement thereof will be made. Pending such announcement, holders of Dollar Bonds are requested to postpone forwarding any such bonds, or any interest coupons pertaining thereto, to the several Fiscal Agents.

BRAZILIAN MISSION
C. Souza Lemos
J. Paes Barretto

March 21, 1944.

The Securities Salesman's Corner

A Valuable Record System

Proper account management is the basis for building a successful retail securities business. Experienced counsel, based upon years of study of economic facts, their interpretation; individual industries, their separate functions in the vast business life of the nation; political trends and their effect upon security values; timing of purchase and disposal of individual securities; analysis of various corporate entities and their securities—all these things and more, are necessary if investors are to receive the service to which they are entitled.

Successful security dealers perform these services for their clients. Although they are today being denied any value which some of our bureaucratic regulatory bodies are wont to place upon their services, in connection with the sales or purchases which they make for and with their clients. the denial of this fact still does not change the reality of the situation.

Such being the case, it is desirable to set up a simple system of record keeping somewhat like that currently in use by progressive physicians. Possibly you have had the experience of visiting your doctor's office, and while you are answering his questions for the first time you have noticed that he has pulled a card out of his file, and while you are talking he is making notes. Each visit thereafter he pulls out your case history, dates the time of the interview and records the new facts which you have told him. At all times he has before him what he calls a "case history."

This same simple record can serve a securities dealer or salesman's purposes very well. Every time a conversation with a client leads to an important decision, either to buy, sell or **hold** a certain security it should be noted on a card record. It is human for clients to forget. Many times the only thing they think they remember is something that could easily be refuted if the date and the facts of the interview were placed before them. Sometimes it is necessary to justify past recommendations. By having all the facts and the circumstances, as well as the reasons for taking a certain position regarding the client's holdings, placed before one in black and white, the wheres and whys of past performance can be clearly indicated.

Another reason for keeping these records is for the dealer's own protection. Today the securities dealers of this country must consider themselves in a unique position among all business enterprises in this land. In the securities business, unlike any other, the philosophy of let the "seller beware" is the code under which he is FORCED BY BUREAUCRATIC USURPATION OF LEGAL POWER to operate his business.

Some day this may be changed. Until that time it is a good idea to keep records. The written word is a much more stable and lasting reference than memory, should the need for a review of the facts ever arise.

DIVIDEND NOTICES

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL GAS COMPANY

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N. Y.

DIVIDEND NO. 1

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS has this day declared the following dividends on the capital stock of the Company, payable on May 15, 1944, to stockholders of record at the close of business April 15, 1944:

Regular semi-annual cash dividend of 50¢ per share; and

Extra cash dividend of 50¢ per share.

Checks will be mailed.

E. E. DUVALL, *Secretary*

March 22, 1944

"Call for
PHILIP MORRIS"

New York, N. Y.
March 15, 1944.

Philip Morris & Co. Ltd. Inc.

A regular quarterly dividend of $1.06¼ per share on the Cumulative Preferred Stock, 4¼% Series, and a regular quarterly dividend of $1.12½ per share on the Cumulative Preferred Stock, 4½% Series, have been declared payable May 1, 1944 to holders of Preferred Stock of the respective series of record at the close of business on April 17, 1944.

There also have been declared a regular quarterly dividend of 75¢ per share and an extra dividend of $1.50 per share on the Common Stock, payable April 15, 1944 to holders of Common Stock of record at the close of business on March 30, 1944.

L. G. HANSON, Treasurer.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC CO.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

Common Stock Dividend No. 113

A cash dividend declared by the Board of Directors on March 15, 1944, for the first quarter of the year 1944, equal to 2% of its par value, will be paid upon the Common Capital Stock of this Company by check on April 15, 1944, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 30, 1944. The Transfer Books will not be closed.

E. J. BECKETT, *Treasurer*

San Francisco, California

THE GARLOCK PACKING COMPANY

March 21, 1944

COMMON DIVIDEND No. 271

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, held in Palmyra, N. Y., this day, a dividend of 50¢ per share was declared on the common stock of the Company, payable March 31, 1944, to stockholders of record at the close of business March 25, 1944.

R. M. WAPLES, *Secretary*

The Western Union Telegraph Co.

DIVIDEND NO. 268

A dividend of 50 cents a share on the Class A stock of this company has been declared, payable April 15, 1944, to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 24, 1944.

G. K. HUNTINGTON,
Treasurer.

March 14, 1944.

Interesting Realty Issue

R. H. Johnson & Co., 64 Wall St., New York City, have issued an interesting study of Hotels Statler Co., Inc., which offers interesting possibilities at current levels the firm believes. Copies may be had upon request from R. H. Johnson & Co.

Du Mont Lab. Attractive

The current situation in Du Mont Laboratories offers attractive possibilities according to a memorandum issued by J. F. Reilly & Co., 111 Broadway, New York City. Copies of this interesting memorandum may be had from the firm upon request.

SEC And NASD Failure To Revoke "5% Rule" Alarming

(Continued from page 1203)

arbitrary and bureaucratic action, the trade practices and customs long prevalent in the security field.

6. Is a betrayal of NASD membership by unnecessary, destructive and non-beneficial policing action, foisted upon these members who pay the dues and assessments which support and make possible NASD activities. And

7. Was and is a wholly non-American and undemocratic doctrine, since its direct effect is to place ceilings on spreads between purchase and sales prices, where no emergency exists.

The above list is by no means all inclusive. Who will say that it is not imposing?

Five months have passed and the mounting tide of anger, like "Old Man River," keeps on rolling along.

It was hoped that the NASD Board of Governors, realizing it had made a grave mistake, would, with courageous humility, acknowledge the error and cancel the action. Such courage is the by-product of intellectual honesty, and up to this writing, no evidence of it has been shown. Perhaps there is still room for hope. We would like to be the first to acknowledge the reversal when such action is taken, and pass the congratulations along.

Yes, the Board of the NASD is slow to its opportunity. Having acted ill advisedly, to be moderate, it lacks the foresight to rescind such action.

How about the SEC? What is causing its inertia? Will it stand idly by, and see many dealers destroyed by an illegally imposed rule which undermines the very foundations of "our way of life"? After all, the SEC is papa and mentor to NASD. The parent is setting a poor example.

Under the Maloney Act and the Constitution and By-laws of the NASD no rule of this organization can be effective without the approval, express or implied, of the SEC. Why hasn't the SEC disapproved the "5% rule" long before this? Why hasn't it acted on the petition of the New York Security Dealers Association and revoked the rule?

These two policemen work out of the same precinct.

NASD is the only association to register with the SEC under the Maloney Act, the first born. Methods have been, and are being devised, policies formed, and strategy mapped. Is it too much to suggest the possibility that parent and child have been working in close cahoots, that perhaps the "NASD 5% spread" had the unofficial blessing of SEC even before the Board of Governors started "philosophizing"? Of course we don't know, but it sounds plausible. However, there should be no need for conjecture on this point. Surely the Executive Director of the NASD can advise us what conferences, if any, its accredited representatives had with SEC officials. If such conferences took place, who participated? Was any written minutes kept? Are these minutes available? Were any commitments made by either the SEC or NASD? If so, what were those commitments?

Speak up, Mr. Wallace Fulton. Your members have a right to know the answers. All security dealers have a right to know the answers.

Since when has it become "cricket" to permit the continuance of a most grievous condition such as that created by the "5% rule"?

How much longer are Business Conduct Committees going to keep imposing penalties on members under a dishonest "philosophy" when the Board of Governors of the NASD is the body which deserves penalizing?

SEC inaction is likely to procure for it a well deserved curtailment of its powers.

There is pending in Congress the Boren Bill (H. R. 1502). Amongst other relief, it seeks to amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, by eliminating therefrom the sentence which reads:

> "The Commission shall, for the purposes of this subsection, by rules and regulations define such devices or contrivances as are manipulative, deceptive, or otherwise fraudulent."

Legislative delegation of power to administrative bodies has proved a great evil. The Boren Bill is finding strong support in the securities field.

The SEC and the NASD need sharp curtailment of their powers so that in the future, no "5% spread" scandal will again be possible.

To the Securities and Exchange Commission, and to the National Association of Securities Dealers, we say, act promptly, act now. Revoke the "5% rule". Act, or be acted against.

Congress Must Encourage Venture Capital Out Of Hiding: Folger

(Continued from page 1203)

from one end of the country to the other. Now idle dollars are different from idle people. They don't make speeches. They don't parade the streets. When they are afraid to work, they simply stay home under the bed. It's an odd thing about dollars—they don't always act the way their owners talk. Yet what a man does with his own hard-earned cash is the best evidence of what he is really thinking. We're hearing more talk and having less action about venture capital than ever before in history.

In the old days a fellow scraped up a few dollars—his wife helped him out — he borrowed some money from his father-in-law and went into business. In the last 10 or 15 years people haven't talked about going into business. They just want an annuity. Everyone desires a mortgage on Uncle Sam. Few want to bet on themselves or on the business future of this country. That is what the silent idle dollars would say if they could talk. They are just plain scared and don't know what to do. Who is going to carry the flag for 50 billion idle dollars that ought to go to work? Can the bankers lead? Only partially. To begin with, they are not molders of public opinion. Bankers, and especially investment bankers, should remember they never represent a pressure group. There are six or seven hundred members of the IBA for the whole country. They cannot win emotional battles. We must win by getting good marks at school. We must never forget the story about Private John Allen, a Confederate veteran running for office in Mississippi. His opponent was a Confederate General. In his campaign speeches Private Allen would say nice things about the General opposing him, adding that he thought all generals should vote for his opponent, but that he wanted all privates to vote for him. Private Allen was always elected. If you are thinking about politics, never forget that story about Private John Allen.

How about the Government? Can it provide the leadership? That question suggests the name of my home city of Washington. All talk finally gets back there sooner or later. I'm inclined to think these idle dollars may find some helpful friends under the Capitol dome. I wouldn't say there were rumblings, but certainly there are murmurings in Congress about the importance of encouraging venture capital. It is to the Congress we must look for lower taxes on risk money rather than on capital which plays safe under the bed. It is to Congress that we must look for some modification of the Securities Acts. These acts have served a most useful purpose. They have thrown the light of day on many situations. But wouldn't it be a good idea after 10 years to take a fresh look at the picture to see if there are any bottlenecks?

How about the Executive branches of the Government? Can leadership come from that source? It is difficult to appreciate how deeply the Executive branch has invaded the banking field in the last 15 years. There are lots of good bankers in Washington, but most of them are working for the Government. You might just make a list of the departments and agencies which are loaning Government money. Banking personnel hasn't diminished — it has just shifted. These public bankers would be less than human if they desired their power and field restricted. What I hope is they will realize that times and styles have changed. Ten or 15 years ago the people were hard up and the Government was flush. Now the Government is hard up and the people are flush. It is time to reverse the trend in banking.

Is there enough capital in the investment banking business to do the job ahead? Some say not. Their suggestion is that we go to that unfailing granary, that magic pitcher always filled with milk, to wit: the Government, and there get whatever capital seems appropriate. The measure of such aid remains undefined. I presume the more a man needed, the more he would get. That seems a fair basis. It will be recalled that the RFC became a preferred stockholder in many commercial banks. If such aid is proferred to private investment firms—which to my mind are of a different category—I don't know how many in this room or in our business would make application for such aid. Possibly some of you have already applied for the job of allocating the money.

In my opinion, the real answer lies elsewhere. Not that I am being selfish about it or that I would make an effort to keep the Government out of a nice, easy sure-fire business like investment banking—a business which is foolproof and has no headaches—a veritable bed of roses just waiting for Uncle Sam. I am thinking of what would happen under competitive bidding. We are having enough trouble with this innovation as it is. Suppose the Government were putting up the ante for every competitive bid? I could foresee some very spirited bidding and some high-priced securities for the investor or for Uncle Sam to put in his portfolio.

What would have happened had the Government been a capital partner in the investment banking business of the '20s? I wasn't in the business then so I wouldn't know, but it seems there was enough commotion then without any added participation.

As I view it, there is no lack of private capital to operate our business. If some bottlenecks can be removed—if a line can be fairly drawn between regulation and harassment—then the business will attract all the personnel and capital it needs.

The Government is already doing most of the borrowing and a good share of the lending. Now if it acquires part-ownership of the private investment business—the circle will be complete. It will borrow all the money, it will lend all the money. It will buy all the securities—in which event there will be no more need for winter meetings in Chicago. What a pity!

Let's approach the suggestion from another angle. Would Government aid encourage decentralization? The point I make is that investment banking is already more decentralized than almost any other line. Mind you, I am for decentralization and the small dealer. First of all, most of the 600-odd firms of our association are relatively small. I really think we are the small business men everyone is worrying about—if they only knew it. I wonder if we fully realize it ourselves. Now there weren't many generals in Private John Allen's army and there aren't many generals in our army any more. We are mostly privates and we've worked out a pretty well-decentralized system of distributing securities if it could be allowed to function. I think we should say only the nicest things about the few remaining Confederate generals. I don't think it is wicked for Marshall Field to have a bigger store in Chicago than our store out in Pullman, Wash. Neither do I think it unfair for Macy's to have a bigger store in New York than we have in Washington, D. C. What I like to see and what I think is happening is that every storekeeper in our business is having a pretty good chance at the customers in his own home town. We are the only line that has reversed the chain-store trend. People are going to their home-town shop to buy securities.

Now I paid my respects to competitive bidding and private placement while in Philadelphia last week. The development of those two activities must surely astonish their sponsors. Private placement, intended to permit a firm to sell a few bonds quickly without letting people know the sheriff was at the door, has become the practice of the elite and the sophisticated. The little investor and the little dealer are not invited to the party. Competitive bidding was intended as an entertainment for the masses, but the masses can't get within gunshot of that good old American institution, the auction block. The new pastime seems to have been taken over by the big fellows so that the small investor and the small dealer can't even hear the auctioneer, much less see what is going on.

Turning away for the moment from private placement and competitive bidding, I hope some day we may turn away from those diversions permanently. Your attention is redirected to the pattern of investments for the post-war period. How shall we describe the great reservoir of investment capital? Maybe we shouldn't refer to idle dollars as capital. They really don't belong just to capitalists. They belong to everyone. Private savings may be the better words. In Washington we have the Department of Agriculture to help fight the farmers' battles and the Labor Department is intended to help labor. Some might say it would be a fine thing to have some agency which was heart and soul for private savings. But we don't need another Bureau. Doesn't our hope lie instead in Congress? Isn't it that body which must carry the flag for 50 billion idle dollars?

Where does the investment banker fit in? Well, he keeps the store where the 50-billion-dollar investor is going to look for merchandise. We must see to it that he gets good, sound merchandise. If we measure up to our responsibilities, we may do the most satisfactory business we have ever known.

More On International Bimetallism

(Continued from page 1203)

ity of one metal with another," (2) the free circulation of gold and silver coins, and the redemption of all bank notes "for gold and silver at a fixed proportion of the two metals"; (3) all silver coins to have 925 parts fine in 1,000, and given unlimited legal tender value; and (4) unlimited free coinage of gold and silver.

If these proposals were put into effect, Prof. Michell states, there "is no doubt that international bimetallism would work," and that "this has never been denied by those who have studied it." Certainly here we have a bold, almost rash, statement; one that is not proven by facts or experiment. There still is, and long has been, widespread and persistent doubt that it will work! Many prominent economists, both living and dead, have denied that it will work. I need only refer to the late Sir Robert Giffen in his, "The Case Against Bimetallism" (p. 37), and the writings of other prominent English economists such as Stanley Jevons and Walter Bagehot. More recent writers have had little occasion to express their views on the subject, since until recently few serious proposals of the kind have been made during the present century.

But, aside from all this, Prof. Michell's proposals, in my opinion, contain serious errors of fact and principle. He really has a mistaken idea of bimetallism. Contrary to his assumption, bimetallism does not and never has implied the "free convertibility of one metal with another." No nation or group of nations, no government or combinations of governments have ever agreed, under a system of bimetallism, to exchange continuously one metal for another at a fixed ratio of weight. Any variation of the market ratio from the mint ratio would soon render such an agreement or undertaking impossible of execution. Bimetallism merely means that two metals or two coins are legal tender at a fixed ratio of weight, and that lawful currency, such as treasury notes, bank notes and the like, may be redeemed in either of the metals, at the option of the party responsible for the redemption.

Professor Michell's second proposal smacks of joint-metallism or symmetallism (as the erstwhile loquacious, but now taciturn Father Coughlin, along with earlier writers, called it). Joint-metallism is not bimetallism. Since ancient times, when coins were minted from a combination of metals, there has never been any widespread proposal to institute a joint-metallic standard or hardly any serious suggestion to experiment with it.

The gist of Prof. Michell's argument is that once a mint ratio of the two metals is universally established or agreed upon, the market ration must conform to it, and "all danger of a breakdown of the system is gone. . . . The moment the same ratio is fixed everywhere arbitrage operations become impossible, or unprofitable and cease."

The fallacy of this point of view is that it assumes that the prices of the two metals, as commodities, can be fixed, and that one commodity can be exchanged for nothing else than the other commodity, thus making it impossible that there should be a variation from the legal fiat. Such, however, is not the case. The function of gold is not merely to buy silver, and silver's use is not merely to be exchanged for gold. If the price of wheat were fixed by international agreement at double the price of corn, it would not mean that a bushel of wheat would not be exchanged for other commodities in a ratio higher or lower than two bushels of corn. Gold and silver, like wheat and corn, are commodities. Each may be produced in varying quantities at different times, and the demands for each may also vary relatively. If a vast new supply of gold would be suddenly produced, without a corresponding increase in the supply of silver, holders of silver would not exchange their metal for gold at the old ratio, and there is no necessity that they should do so, since silver, as a commodity, could be exchanged for other commodities without the loss of exchange value due to the vast new supplies of gold. The fact that the value ratio of silver to gold has declined during the last 75 years from 15 to 1 to about 100 to 1 has been due very largely to the vast increase in the supplies of silver. It became cheaper compared to gold because it was produced cheaper and in much larger quantities. Could it be assumed that if, in 1870, all nations agreed to maintain a ratio of silver to gold at 15 to 1, and maintained that agreement until this day, that the price or value of silver would not have fallen?

The sources of supply of gold and silver are independent of each other. The relative amounts of each metal produced have varied substantially from time to time and these variations have been reflected in the changes in their relative market values. Today, silver is largely a by-product of copper smelting and refining. Unless the value of silver rises sharply, the volume of its supply will depend on the amount of copper mined and smelted, and not on the changes in the demand, or even in the value of silver itself. Under such circumstances, how is it possible for any government or group of governments to maintain a fixed value ratio of silver and gold, without absorbing vast quantities of the cheaper metal, which would remain "sterilized" in their tills, and, at the same time, cause a complete withdrawal from their coffers of the more highly prized metal?

Professor Michell reiterates the common error of most bimetallists. He predicts that international bimetallism will relieve the world of the monetary evils due to recurring shortages of gold in different countries. If we learn anything from monetary history, (including that of our own country) it is this: Bimetallism in the long run does not increase the monetary supply. Whenever one metal varies in market price from the mint ratio to only a very slight degree from the other, Gresham's law begins to operate. The coins composed of the under-valued metal gradually, and sometimes even rapidly, disappear from circulation.

Alexander Hamilton urged the establishment of bimetallism in the United States because, as he stated, there existed an extreme shortage of metallic currency, and he thought that by fixing a mint ratio at or near the market ratio at the time, both gold and silver coins would circulate and be used in effecting exchanges. It was not long, however, when gold practically disappeared from circulation, and the nation still suffered, and continued to suffer under bimetallism from a scarcity of specie money. When in 1873, bimetallism was practically abandoned in the United States, there was no perceptible change in the quantity of specie money available, and little public notice was taken of the change in the monetary system. The Demonetization of Silver Act simply established by a law what was already an accomplished fact.

Insurance Stocks Interesting

Aetna Casualty & Surety Company; Agricultural Insurance Co.; American Alliance Insurance Company; American Re-Insurance Company; Fire Association of Philadelphia; Seaboard Surety Company; Standard Accident Insurance Company; and United States Guarantee Company offer interesting possibilities at the present time, according to detailed memoranda on the situations prepared by Mackubin, Legg & Company, 22 Light Street, Baltimore, Md., members of the New York and Baltimore Stock Exchanges. Copies of these memoranda may be had upon request from the Insurance Stocks Department of the firm.

Growth Possibilities

Consolidated Gas Utilities Corporation offers attractive possibilities as a growth stock according to a detailed circular on the situation issued by Hicks & Price, 231 South La Salle St., Chicago, Ill., members of the New York and Chicago Stock Exchanges, and other exchanges. Copies of this interesting circular may be had from the firm upon request.

Attractive Situation

Empire Steel Corporation offers attractive possibilities according to a detailed memorandum being distributed by Hill, Thompson & Co., Inc., 120 Broadway, New York City. Copies of this interesting memorandum may be had upon request from Hill, Thompson & Co., Inc.

Current Problems And Their Effect On Post-War Municipal Financing

(Continued from page 1204)

fear of peace. You will recall how we were going to borrow our way back to solvency. How we were going to restore prosperity by destroying wealth — by plowing under cotton and corn and killing the little pigs, and the way we were going to raise prices by buying the world's gold supply, at an artificial price, and then burying it in the ground. This peace emergency doesn't get me greatly excited, but then we have had so many emergencies in the last ten years that perhaps my capacity for excitement has become somewhat exhausted.

While I believe that the States and municipalities can contribute to the readjustment, which will be necessary at the close of the war, by undertaking the needed public improvements; those which normally would have been undertaken during the war period and those which will be essential at that time, I do not believe that the economic situation in this country will be at all improved by the States and municipalities proceeding to borrow their way into bankruptcy. The amount of necessary public works, which the States and municipalities will have to undertake in the immediate post-war period, will require the expenditure of between two and three billion dollars. When you consider that the normal long-term borrowing of States and municipalities, prior to the war, was approximately one billion dollars annually, you can appreciate that there will be plenty of municipal bonds to market almost as soon as the war is over.

Many problems will arise in marketing and servicing of these securities. Let us, first, consider some of the problems involved in the issuing of these bonds. Most municipal bonds, which have been issued in the past, are secured by taxes levied upon real estate, and to a very minor degree by taxes upon personal property. The laws of most States limit the amount of indebtedness, which the municipalities can incur, to a percentage of the assessed valuation of their taxable property. In many instances, it will be found that the municipalities have already borrowed up to or at least approaching their debt limits, and, unless the debt limits are raised, many municipalities will not be able to issue very many general obligation bonds to finance post-war improvements. Raising these debt limits, in some States, will be difficult because many of them are constitutional limits, and to change them would require constitutional amendments. Moreover, real estate in the municipalities throughout the entire country is already so heavily burdened that there will undoubtedly be resistance to the issuance of additional bonds imposing still further tax burdens upon real estate. The result of this combination of circumstances will be an effort to find some source of revenue for the servicing of the bonds other than real estate taxes. I believe this will stimulate the financing of as many of the post-war projects as possible through the medium of revenue bonds.

Revenue bonds have proven to be a very effective means of financing certain types of public improvements, and when they are properly set up and the projects are economically sound, these bonds enjoy a very good market. There are, however, many types of projects which produce a revenue but are not entirely self-sustaining. Airports are a typical example. Probably very few airports now or in the near future can be expected to produce sufficient annual net revenue to pay the principal and interest of the capital investment. Nevertheless, revenue bonds might still be made use of to aid in financing such enterprises. One way in which it might be done would be for the municipality to issue general obligation bonds to defray that portion of the cost of the enterprise which could not be carried by its revenues. The revenues over the amount necessary for the payment of the principal and interest of the revenue bonds issued to establish the enterprise, might be pledged to the servicing of the general obligation bonds, so that as time went on and the revenues increased, the entire debt might be serviced by these revenues, and tax levies for the payment of the general obligation bonds discontinued or at least substantially reduced. Such a program might well be followed by a municipality which, because of debt limitations or limitations on the tax rate, might find it impossible to issue general obligation bonds to defray the entire cost of the enterprise. Another expedient which might be resorted to, which has some judicial support, is for the municipality to bear the annual maintenance expenses of the project so that all of its revenues will be available for debt service. No doubt in many jurisdictions it would be necessary to obtain the approval of the Supreme Court of this device, but a strong argument could be made to sustain it. For instance, if a bridge were constructed by a municipality it would unquestionably have the right to levy taxes to maintain it, and no court would regard the obligation to pay the annual maintenance charges as a debt subject to State or constitutional debt limits. Is the situation altered because the municipality charges a toll for the use of the bridge and covenants that these tolls shall be applied in liquidation of revenue bonds which had been issued to defray the cost of its construction? At least one court has held that it is not, and has held that the arrangement does not involve the creation of municipal debt. There are other devices which might be resorted to, some of which have received express judicial approval; such as leasing to a municipality or county, at an annual rental, projects constructed by an authority through the issuance of revenue bonds.

The feasibility of these revenue bond projects, however, in most instances, will depend upon the tax exempt status of the bonds which will be issued to finance them. Unless the interest on these bonds is exempt from Federal taxation, their sale, in the great majority of cases, will be impracticable. The consensus among experts on revenue bond financing is that Federal taxation of the income derived from State and municipal bonds will increase the rate of interest on such bonds upwards of 1¼% annually. In the majority of cases this will mean that practically all the net revenues of a revenue-producing project will be absorbed in interest charges, leaving little or nothing for the payment of principal. That will compel the abandonment of many a revenue bond project which could otherwise be financed.

If I am correct in my belief that a large amount of post-war financing of the States and the municipalities will be effected through the issuance of revenue bonds, and particularly through the issuance of authority bonds, then this question of tax exemption will profoundly affect the post-war financing of the States and of their municipalities. You are all familiar with the fact that Congress has repeatedly rejected the Treasury Department's request that it amend the Revenue Act so as to subject State and municipal bonds to taxation, and that, being thwarted in its effort to secure such legislation from Congress, it has caused to be instituted the now famous "Port Authority Case." The Treasury Department has levied taxes upon the income derived from bonds of the Port of New York Authority and of the Triborough Bridge Authority on the theory that, while Congress has exempted from such taxation income derived from bonds of political subdivisions, neither of these organizations is a political subdivision of the States which created them. The United States Tax Court, recently, rendered a decision in that case and held both organization were political subdivisions within the meaning of the Revenue Act. I understand that the Department of Justice will take an appeal from that ruling to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The loser in the Court of Appeals will, no doubt, attempt to carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, but if the Court of Appeals should sustain the Tax Court it is quite possible that the Supreme Court of the United States may refuse to issue a writ of certiorari to bring the case before it for review. The constitutional question not being involved in the Tax Court's decision, the Supreme Court might not regard the decision as one of nation-wide importance, and might, for that reason, refuse to review the decisions of the courts below. That would mean that the decision of the Court of Appeals, affirming the decision of the Tax Court, would be the final decision in the case.

In the Tax Court the attorneys for the Port Authority and for the Triborough Bridge Authority contended that Congress possesses no constitutional power to levy taxes upon income derived from Port Authority or Triborough Bridge Authority Bonds, on the ground that such taxation would impose an unconstitutional burden upon the sovereign States of New York and New Jersey. Thousands of pages of testimony were taken regarding the fact of such burden and the extent of the burden, but the United States Tax Court did not pass upon the constitutional question and made no finding of fact regarding the burden which such taxation would throw upon the States, because, having decided that Congress did not impose any taxes upon the income derived from the bonds, there was no reason for discussing the constitutional question. It would seem, therefore, that if the decision of the Tax Court is reversed by the Appellate Courts, it will be necessary to remand the case to the Tax Court for findings upon the fact of the burden placed upon the States by such taxation and the extent of the burden. The Appellate Courts could hardly indulge in their habit of asserting judicial knowledge of such facts, based upon unsupported opinions of text writers and monographs prepared by college boys, when such a voluminous amount of evidence upon the subject was presented in the trial court. Therefore, I think it most likely that you will have to live with the Port Authority Case for upwards of two years more, during which such time, I hope, the post-war period will have begun.

In order to finance their share of the cost of post-war enterprises, the State governments will probably turn to various forms of excise taxes, including the sales tax, and also income taxes. When the States begin to consider these sources of revenues, however, they will find that they are already pretty well pre-empted by the Federal Government. Before very long everyone is going to be confronted with the stubborn fact, which has been pretty much overlooked in the past, that all taxes, Federal, State and municipal, are paid from the same source—the income of the citizen. If the Federal Government appropriates so much of the income of the citizen that he has little or nothing left after the payment of his living expenses, there will be no revenues to service the State and municipal functions, to say nothing of the servicing of their indebtedness. The very ability of the States and municipalities to function as autonomous entities will be seriously jeopardized.

Some of the States are already greatly concerned about this. I picked up "The Bond Buyer", of February 5, and discovered, to my astonishment, that 15 States have already adopted resolutions calling upon Congress to submit a constitutional amendment which would limit the power of the Federal Government to impose income taxes to a maximum rate of 25% except in time of war when the limitation may be temporarily suspended by a three-fourths vote of each House of Congress. In addition to the States which have adopted the resolution the Senate of the State of New York has passed the resolution unanimously, the Senate of Ohio has passed it with but five opposing votes, and just the other day it was adopted by the New Jersey Senate. The movement does not seem to be a sectional movement, for the States, which have adopted it, are scattered throughout the country, including States which are predominately Democratic in their politics as well as those which are predominately Republican. You may be interested in the names of the States which have already adopted the resolution. They are Wyoming, Rhode Island, Mississippi, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, Arkansas, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, Alabama and Texas.

I am unable to inform you whether the resolution is pending in any other States, as I have no part in the movement designed to secure this amendment and know very little about it, but it is apparent that it is a movement of great significance which seems to have a very popular appeal, and it is one which, obviously, will have repercussions in the field of the State and municipal financing.

You may ask how the Constitution of the United States can be amended in this way. It is not the customary way in which the Constitution has been amended, but it is a method which is provided for by Article V of the Constitution. That article provides for two methods of amending the Constitution. One is by the adoption of the amendment by two-thirds of each House of Congress and its ratification by the legislature of three-fourths of the States or by conventions held in three-fourths of the States. The other method (which is the method apparently being made use of to secure the adoption of the amendment under discussion), provides for calling of a convention by Congress for the proposing of amendments upon the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, and the subsequent ratification of the amendments by three-fourths of the States. Accordingly, if two-thirds of the States adopt a resolution calling upon Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing the tax limit amendment, Congress will be required to call the convention and the amendment proposed by the convention will have to be submitted to the States for ratification or rejection.

Another matter, which has in the past bedeviled the municipal securities market, has been the persistent effort of the Securities and Exchange Commission to regulate it, in spite of the fact that Congress has on several occasions denied it such authority. There is a bill now pending in Congress known as the Boren Bill, the purpose of which is to make clear once and for all that the SEC has no regulatory jurisdiction over the State and municipal bond market. That bill, together with many other bills proposing to amend the Federal securities legislation, has been pending in committee for a considerable time. Possibly before we get to the post-war period Congress will get around to its enactment and the post-war municipal bond market will be relieved of that threat. The bill has been endorsed by State legislatures by a great many counties and municipalities, and by organizations of public officials, and I am informed that it has very strong support in Congress.

A subject which, recently, has been giving the security dealers considerable concern, is the attitude of the Department of Justice regarding syndicate agreements. The Department intervened in a proceeding pending in the Securities and Exchange Commission and filed a brief in which it takes the position that certain types of syndicate agreements, which have long been customary in the field of corporate financing, violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. I do not believe, however, that the municipal bond fraternity need be much concerned about it. What the Department seems to be aiming at are agreements which require others than the original owners of the bonds to maintain prices for securities fixed by the syndicate. The features of private corporation syndicate agreements, which seem to be objected to by the Department of Justice, do not appear in syndicate agreements with reference to the purchase and sale of State and municipal securities. A least I have never seen any syndicate agreement relating to State and municipal bonds which included any of these restrictive covenants. Unlike many corporate syndicate agreements, the members of a municipal syndicate are really joint venturers. They do not severally contract with the municipality to purchase particular bonds of the issue offered for sale. They purchase all the bonds from the public body jointly. They do not contract with the public agency that the bonds will not be offered to the public below a fixed price. The members of the syndicate do not own any particular bonds of the issue which they have purchased, but all have an undivided interest in all of the bonds. This is true even of the so-called Western or divided liability syndicates. At least it is true of all such syndicate agreements that I have seen. In those accounts there is no division of the ownership of the bonds among the members of the syndicate. They own each bond jointly. Their liability to the issuer is a joint liability. They have by their agreement merely put a limit upon their respective liabilities to each other. In no other respect does the Western account differ from an Eastern account. When a member of a municipal syndicate, or the syndicate itself, sells bonds, no contract is made with the purchaser requiring him to maintain the syndicate price or any price. The only price agreement involved in a municipal bond syndicate is the agreement among the members of the syndicate themselves, the joint owners of the bonds, as to the price at which they will offer the bonds to the public. I know of nothing in such an agreement which violates the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, nor have I seen anything which leads me to the belief that the Department of Justice has a contrary opinion. I thing this is **one** problem with which the dealers in State and municipal securities will **not** have to struggle in the post-war world.

There probably will be many other problems arising out of the post-war financing of States and municipalities which we cannot now foresee, but I have no doubt we will be able to cope with them successfully. The solution of all of these problems lies in the productive capacity of the American people, the like of which the world has never before seen. If the astounding energy of the American people is released for the production of peace-time goods, all of these problems will vanish like the morning mist. And they are going to be released. How? Why mankind, from time immemorial, has used the same method.

Herodotus tells of one instance which occurred several hundred years before Christ. The Milesians, a small Greek State, found their affairs in very bad shape. Not knowing how to remedy the situation themselves, they called upon the Parians, a neighboring State, whose people had some reputation for good sense, to come in and advise them. The Parians appointed a commission who merely traveled around the territory of the Milesians and whenever they found a farm which was well kept up they inquired the name of its owner and noted his name on a tablet. Their sole recommendation to the Milesians was to put the government in the hands of the men whose names they had noted on the tablet, on the principle that those men, who had well managed their own affairs, could be trusted to well manage the affairs of the State. The Milesians took their advice and, according to Herodotus, shortly thereafter attained the peak of their prosperity. I recommend the same procedure to the American people.

Result Of Treasury Bill Offerings

The Secretary of the Treasury announced on March 20 that the tenders for $1,000,000,000, or thereabouts, of 91-day Treasury bills to be dated March 23 and to mature June 22, 1944, which were offered on March 17, were opened at the Federal Reserve Banks on March 20.

The details of this issue are as follows:

Total applied for, $2,116,736,000.

Total accepted, $1,001,105,000 (includes $63,966,000 entered on a fixed-price basis at 99.905 and accepted in full).

Average price, 99.905+, equivalent rate of discount approximately 0.375% per annum.

Range of accepted competitive bids:

High, 99.910, equivalent rate of discount approximately 0.356% per annum.

Low, 99.905, equivalent rate of discount approximately 0.376% per annum.

(41% of the amount bid for at the low price was accepted.)

There was a maturity of a similar issue of bills on March 23 in the amount of $1,005,549,000.

With respect to the previous week's offering of $1,000,000,000, or thereabouts, of 91-day Treasury bills to be dated March 16 and to mature June 15, 1944, which were offered on March 10, were opened at the Federal Reserve Banks on March 13.

The details of this issue are as follows:

Total applied for, $2,094,959,000.

Total accepted, $1,016,034,000 (includes $64,950,000 entered on a fixed-price basis at 99.905 and accepted in full).

Average price, 99.905+, equivalent rate of discount approximately 0.375% per annum.

Range of accepted competitive bids:

High, 99.910, equivalent rate of discount approximately 0.356% per annum.

Low, 99.905, equivalent rate of discount approximately 0.376% per annum.

(41% of the amount bid for at the low price was accepted.)

There was a maturity of a similar issue of bills on March 16 in the amount of $1,100,180,000.

Calendar Of New Security Flotations

OFFERINGS

DIANA STORES CORP.—80,000 shares of common stock (par $1). Proceeds for working capital. Price to public $7 per share. Filed Feb. 3, 1944. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

Offered March 22, 1944 at $7 per share by Van Alstyne, Noel & Co., Childs, Jeffries & Thorndike Co., Reich & Co. and R. H. Johnson & Co.

HART, SCHAFFNER & MARX

Hart, Schaffner & Marx has filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission for 120,000 shares of common stock, par value $10 per share.

Address—36 South Franklin Street, Chicago 6, Ill.

Business—Consists principally of the manufacture and sale at wholesale of the better grades of men's suits overcoats and topcoats, including, in recent years, military uniforms, and, to a small extent, women's suits and coats.

Offering — The presently outstanding common stock is to be changed from $20 par value to $10 par value and 2½ shares of new stock issued for each present share, which will increase outstanding common stock from 142,313 shares to 355,782½ shares. A portion of the new shares are to be acquired by the underwriters from certain stockholders and offered to the public.

Registration Statement No. 2-5309. Form A-2. (2-25-44).

Hart, Schaffner & Marx March 13 filed an amendment to its registration statement correcting the amount of stock to be offered to 120,500 shares and naming the underwriters who will be Blyth & Co., Inc.; A. G. Becker & Co., Inc.; Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane; Central Republic Co. (Inc.); McDonald-Coolidge & Co.; Hallgarten & Co.; Hemphill, Noyes & Co.; Johnston, Lemon & Co.; Kebbon, McCormick & Co.; Newburger & Hano; Shuman, Agnew & Co.; Sutro & Co., and Whiting, Weeks & Stubbs, Inc.

Offered—March 21 by Blyth & Co., Inc., A. G. Becker & Co., Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane at $25¾ per share.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES CO., INC.

Universal Pictures Co., Inc., filed a registration statement for $7,500,000 3¾% sinking fund debentures, due March 1, 1959.

Address—1250 Sixth Avenue, New York City, and Universal City, Cal.

Business—Engaged in the production of motion pictures.

Proceeds—Net proceeds will be applied to the prepayment, on or about March 18, 1944, of $5,035,000 principal amount of secured notes outstanding and to the redemption at 102 on or about April 18, 1944, of $1,983,000 face amount of the company's ten-year 5% convertible debentures, due April 1, 1950. Any remainder of net proceeds will be added to the general funds of the company.

Registration Statement No. 2-5311. Form A-2. (3-3-44).

Amendment filed March 20, 1944, listing underwriters as follows: Dillon, Read & Co., $1,000,000; Bear, Stearns & Co., $150,000; A. G. Becker & Co., Inc., $250,000; Blyth & Co., Inc., $550,000; Alex. Brown & Sons, $150,000; First Boston Corp., $650,000; Graham, Parsons & Co., $200,000; Hayden, Stone & Co., $150,000; Hemphill, Noyes & Co., $350,000; Hornblower & Weeks, $150,000; W. E. Hutton & Co., $350,000; Kidder, Peabody & Co., $550,000; W. C. Langley & Co., $300,000; Laurence M. Marks & Co., $300,000; Merrill, Turben & Co., $150,000; Maynard H. Murch & Co., $100,000; Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis, $150,000; Riter & Co., $200,000; L. F. Rothschild & Co., $100,000; Shields & Co., $500,000; Stein Bros. & Boyce, $150,000; Tucker, Anthony & Co., $300,000; G. H. Walker & Co., $350,000; Dean Witter & Co., $200,000 and Yarnall & Co., $200.000.

Offered March 23 by above underwriters at a price of 99.

WARE SHOALS MANUFACTURING CO.

Ware Shoals Manufacturing Co. has registered 10,000 shares of 5% cumulative preferred stock, par $100 per share.

Address—Ware Shoals, South Carolina.

Business — Manufacturing, finishing and fabricating of cotton goods.

Underwriting — Names of underwriters and number of shares to be purchased by each follow: H. T. Mills, Greenville, S. C., 3,000; A. M. Law & Co., Spartansburg, S. C., 3,000; Citizens Trust Co., Greenwood, S. C., 1,000; Courts & Co., Greenville, S. C., 750; G. H. Crawford & Co., Inc., Columbia, S. C., 750; Vivian M. Manning, Greenville, S. C., 750; Alester G. Furman Co., Greenville, S. C., 500, and Frost, Read & Co., Inc., Charleston, S. C., 250.

Offering—The company offers the right to purchase preferred stock to holders of common stock who have not waived such right, on the basis of one share of preferred for each five shares of common. Such waivers have been requested by the management to enable the company to arrange for the underwriting of the entire issue on a more satisfactory basis than would otherwise be possible. Offering price $100 per share.

Proceeds—Purpose of issue is to effect the retirement of the 9,725 shares of 7% preferred stock presently outstanding.

Registration Statement No. 2-5303. Form S-1. (2-8-44).

Registration statement effective 4:30 p.m. EWT on March 2, 1944.

Offered (subject to stockholders' rights) by above named underwriters at $100 per share.

NEW FILINGS

List of issues whose registration statements were filed less than twenty days ago, grouped according to dates on which registration statements will in normal course become effective, unless accelerated at the discretion of the SEC.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

ELLIOTT COMPANY

Elliott Company filed a registration statement for 50,000 shares of 5½% cumulative convertible preferred stock, par $50, and such number of shares of common stock, par value $10, as shall at any time be required for issuance upon conversion of 5½% cumulative convertible preferred stock.

Address—Jeannette, Pa.

Business—Manufactures steam turbines, electric generators and motors and other equipment used principally in the production of power.

Underwriting—F. Eberstadt & Co., New York, is named as the underwriter.

Offering—Price to the public of the preferred stock will be named by amendment.

Proceeds—Net proceeds from sale of the 50,000 shares of preferred which are estimated at $2,354,000 will be applied to the redemption of all preferred stock, $100 par, presently outstanding, at par plus accrued dividends from April 1, 1944, to date fixed for redemption, requiring approximately $1,149,000, and the balance of $1,205,000 for additional working capital.

Registration Statement No. 2-5315. Form S-2. (3-14-44).

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC CO.

Atlantic City Electric Co., (subsidiary of American Gas & Electric Co.,) filed an amendment on March 14, 1944, to original registration statement (No. 2-4941) which registers 55,000 shares of cumulative preferred stock (par $100). The stock is to be sold at competitive bidding pursuant to the Commission's competitive bidding Rule U-50, with the successful bidder naming the dividend rate.

Net proceeds from sale of new preferred, together with treasury funds, will be used to redeem 26,283 shares of old $6 preferred stock now in the hands of public at redemption price of $120 per share, and the purchase for cancellation of 30,592 shares of the old $6 preferred from its parent, American Gas & Electric Co., for $3,059,200, being the cost of the shares to American Gas & Electric. The total cost is placed at $6,213,160 exclusive of accrued dividends which will be paid by the company out of general funds.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

MINNEAPOLIS-HONEYWELL REGULATOR CO.

Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. has filed a registration statement for 30,000 shares of 4% cumulative preferred stock, Series D, par value $100 a share.

Address—2747 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.

Business — Pre-war business consisted principally in the manufacture and sale of various types of temperature controlling and heat regulating devices. War conditions have resulted in major changes in the nature and scope of the company's operations and war production has very greatly increased the volume of the company's output.

Underwriting — The underwriters and amounts underwritten are Union Securities Corp., N. Y., 24,000 shares; Piper, Jaffray & Hopwood, Minneapolis, 3,500 shares, and Alex. Brown & Sons, Baltimore, 2,500 shares.

Offering—Price to the public will be supplied by amendment.

Proceeds—For general corporate purposes. In the judgment of the management the provision of additional capital at this time is advisable to assist in carrying the increased inventories and expense incident to its greatly increased volume of business and to provide for the company's future requirements, particularly with respect to conversion of its plants to normal production and possible increased volume of peacetime sales.

Registration Statement No. 2-5316. Form A-2. (3-15-44).

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT CO.

Louisiana Power & Light Co., filed a registration statement for $17,000,000 first mortgage bonds due April 1, 1974.

Address—142 Delaronde Street, New Orleans, La.

Business—Public utility company operating in state of Louisiana, and is a subsidiary of Electric Power & Light Corp. and Electric Bond & Share Co.

Underwriting—The bonds will be offered for sale at competitive bidding under the Commission's competitive bidding Rule U-50. Interest rate will be named by the successful bidder. Names of the underwriters will be filed by post-effective amendment.

Offering—Price to the public will be supplied by post-effective amendment.

Proceeds—The proceeds from the sale of bonds, together with such additional treasury cash as may be required, will be used to redeem, at 102½, company's first mortgage gold bonds, 5% series due 1957, of which $17,500,000 principal amount were outstanding on Dec. 31, 1943.

Registration Statement No. 2-5317. Form S-1. (3-16-44).

SPRAGUE WARNER-KENNY CORPORATION

Sprague Warner-Kenny Corporation has registered 15,000 shares of 6% cumulative preferred stock, $100 par value.

Address—32 South Street, Baltimore, Md.

Business—The company and its subsidiary, Western Grocer Co., conduct a general wholesale grocery business and, in connection therewith, manufacture a broad line of food products which are distributed through their respective sales organizations.

Underwriting—A. C. Allyn & Co., Inc., Chicago, heads the list of underwriters, with the names of others to be supplied by amendment.

Offering—Of the 15,000 shares offered, 8,649 will be initially offered to holders of Western Grocer Co. 7% preferred stock, $100 par, of which 8,649 shares are issued and outstanding, under a plan of exchange pursuant to which the company will offer for each share of 7% preferred stock of Western Grocer, one share of 6% cumulative preferred stock of the company, together with an amount in cash equal to the excess of the amount of unpaid dividends accrued on Western Grocer 7% proferred to the date of delivery over the amount of accrued dividends to said date on the share of preferred stock of the company issued in exchange therefor. The underwriters have agreed to purchase, or to find purchasers for the 6,351 shares not offered for exchange together with such portion of the 8,649 shares as to which such offer of exchange is not accepted. Offering price to the public is given at $100 per share, plus accrued dividends from April 1, 1944, to date of delivery.

Proceeds—Proceeds will be used for the acquisition of a maximum of 8,649 shares of Western Grocer 7% preferred in exchange of shares and $575,000 will be applied to retirement of 5,750 shares of 6% cumulative preferred of Sprague at $100 per share.

Company also plans to issue $3,250,000 face amount of installment promissory notes and use proceeds as additional working capital.

Registration Statement No. 2-5318. Form S-1. (3-16-44).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

ALLIS-CHALMERS MANUFACTURING CO.

Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co. has registered 296,015 shares of cumulative convertible preferred stock, par $100 per share. The dividend rate, conversion rate into common, unless previously redeemed, and the call price of preferred will be filed by amendment.

Address—1126 S. 70th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin.

Business—Before the outbreak of the war in 1939 the company was engaged in the manufacture of a widely diversified line of agricultural, electrical and industrial machinery and equipment. Since the entry of the United States into war, civilian business has been subordinate to the manufacture of war material, although a substantial amount of the company's peace-time products have been adapted to war use.

Underwriting—Blyth & Co., Inc., New York, are the principal underwriters, with names of others to be filed by amendment.

Offering—The 296,015 shares of new cumulative convertible preferred are being offered for subscription to common stockholders at the rate of one share of preferred for each six shares of common. The subscription price is to be fixed by amendment, with warrants to be issued to stockholders of record March 31 and to expire April 12.

Proceeds—Of the net proceeds the company will apply $15,600,000 to the redemption and payment of all of its outstanding 15-year 4% convertible sinking fund debentures due Sept. 1, 1952, at 104. The balance of the proceeds will be added to company's working capital for war purposes and to place it in a position to carry additional inventories and additional notes and accounts receivable for anticipated post-war business, particularly in the farm implement, road machinery and tractor field. Some portion of the proceeds may ultimately be employed in extending and reconverting the company's production facilities for peace-time business.

Registration Statement No. 2-5319. Form S-1. (3-17-44).

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

KEYSTONE CUSTODIAN FUNDS, INC.

Keystone Custodian Funds, Inc., has registered 100,000 shares of investment trust-full certificates of participation, Series S-3.

Address — 50 Congress Street, Boston, Mass.

Business—Investment trust.

Underwriting—Keystone Custodian Funds, Inc., is named sponsor.

Offering—At market.

Proceeds—For investment.

Registration Statement No. 2-5320. Form C-1. (3-18-44).

CHAMPION PAPER & FIBRE COMPANY

Champion Paper & Fibre Co. has registered 25,507 shares of 6% cumulative preferred stock, $100 par value.

Address—Hamilton, Ohio.

Business—Company is one of the largest domestic manufacturers of the types of paper known in the trade as white papers and book papers.

Underwriting—The underwriters and the shares purchased are as follows: Goldman, Sachs & Co., 12,753 shares and W. E. Hutton & Co., 12,754, both firms located at New York City.

Offering—Price to the public will be filed by amendment.

Proceeds — Will be added to working capital in the first instance, but it is anticipated they may be used for capital expenditures when circumstances permit.

Registration Statement No. 2-5321. Form S-1. (3-18-44).

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

ARIZONA EDISON CO., INC.

Arizona Edison Co., Inc. has filed a registration statement for $2,500,000 1st mtge. bonds, 3½% series due 1974 and 4,500 shares of $5 cumulative preferred stock (no par).

Address—830 Title and Trust Building, Phoenix, Ariz.

Business—Principal business of the company is the generation and purchase of electricity, the purchase of gas, the pumping of water and the sale of these services to areas in southern Arizona.

Underwriting—Coffin & Burr, Inc., Boston, is named principal underwriter with names of others to be supplied by amendment.

Offering—Prices of the bonds and preferred stock to the public will be supplied by amendment.

Proceeds — Contemporaneously with the sale of these securities, the company will sell to a single purchaser $750,000 of serial notes. Company will use the net proceeds from this financing, together with other funds of the company, to redeem all the outstanding first mortgage 4% bonds, Series C (all $2,538,000 of which are owned by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States), all the outstanding second mortgage 6% income bonds, Series A and second mortgage 5% income bonds, Series B.

Registration Statement No. 2-5322. Form S-1. (3-20-44).

DATES OF OFFERING UNDETERMINED

We present below a list of issues whose registration statements were filed twenty days or more ago, but whose offering dates have not been determined or are unknown to us.

AMERICAN CASUALTY CO. OF READING, PA.—100,000 shares capital stock (par $5), to be offered to stockholders of record March 10 at $11 per share in ratio of one new share for each share held. Rights expire about April 20, 1944. Proceeds for working capital. Filed Feb. 18, 1944. Details in "Chronicle," March 9, 1944.

BEN-HUR PRODUCTS, INC. — $300,000 5% convertible debentures, series of 1943, due Feb. 1, 1951 and 11,400 prior preferred shares (for purpose of conversion). Proceeds to retire bank loans and working capital. Pacific Co. of Calif. and Wyeth & Co. named underwriters. Filed Dec. 20, 1943. Details in "Chronicle," March 9, 1944.

CERTAIN-TEED PRODUCTS CORP.—$6,737,300 4% cumulative income debentures due Oct. 31, 1973 and 134,746 shares common (par $1) and certificates of deposit for 67,373 shares 6% prior preferred stock. Holders of preferred stock offered $100 of income debentures and two common shares in exchange for each preferred share. Company plans to issue 208,466 additional common shares, to be offered to present common stockholders on 1 for 3 basis, at a price to be announced. Company further plans to sell $5,500,000 new (interest not to exceed 4½%) senior debentures and use proceeds, with other funds, to redeem outstanding $7,100,000 5½% S. F. debentures series A. Paul H. Davis & Co., Chicago, named principal underwriter or dealer manager to effect exchanges. Filed Oct. 27, 1943. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

MICHIGAN CONSOLIDATED GAS CO.—$38,000,000 first mortgage 3½s, series due 1968 and 40,000 shares 4¾% cumulative preferred stock (par $100). Proceeds for refunding. To be sold through competitive bidding. Filed Nov. 13, 1943. Effective Feb. 10, 1944. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

NORTHWEST AIRLINES, INC.—139,460 shares of common stock (no par) registered, of which 117,460 shares will be offered to common stockholders in ratio of one for each two held. Proceeds for general corporate purposes. Unsubscribed shares underwritten by Auchincloss, Parker & Redpath. Filed Dec. 23, 1943. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CO.—$18,000,000 first mortgage bonds due April 1, 1961 and 180,000 preferred shares, series A cumulative (par $50). Proceeds for refunding. Bids for bonds and preferred stock will be accepted at company's office, 90 Broad Street, New York City, before 12 noon EWT March 28. Coupon rate and dividend rate to be specified in the bids. Filed Feb. 7, 1944. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF OKLA.—$1,500,000 5% cumulative preferred stock (par $100) and $6,600,000 first mortgage bonds, series A 3½% due Feb. 1, 1971. Stock is for exchange of $6 preferred of Southwestern Light & Power Co. (subsidiary) on share for share basis. Bonds will be offered for sale at competitive bidding. Registration effective Jan. 10, 1944. Filed Dec. 21, 1943. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

SOUTH COAST CORP.—$1,500,000 first mortgage 5% bonds due Dec. 31, 1955. Proceeds to redeem $998,405 general mortgage income 6s and for working capital. Paul H. Davis & Co. principal underwriter. Filed Jan. 24, 1944.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC & POWER CO.—$24,500,000 first and refunding mortgage bonds, series D 3½% due April 1, 1974 and 305,192 shares of $5 dividend preferred stock to be issued in connection with merger of Virginia Public Service Co. into Virginia Electric & Power Co. When merger becomes effective each share of V. P. S. 7% preferred and V. P. S. 6% preferred (including accrued dividends) will be converted into 1⅛ shares of new preferred and in addition each share of V. P. S. 7% preferred will receive $5.50 in cash. V. P. S. common will be converted with V. E. & P. Co. common. Each share of V. E. & P. Co. old preferred will be converted into one share of new preferred and will receive cash for accrued dividends to merger date. V. E. & P. Co. common will remain outstanding. Bonds will be offered at sale through competitive bidding. Filed Feb. 28, 1944. Details in "Chronicle," March 16, 1944.

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"Our Reporter On Governments"

By DONALD MacKINNON

"I know that the Germans have a bomb, rocket-propelled, that has our research men going gray. . . . This was the bomb that has our research men going gray. This was the bomb ROMA.

"Our combat generals think the German Army is as strong as ever. They may be wrong, but, after all, their opinion, based on experience, seems worth considering. They don't think that we can lose this war, but they don't see yet how we can win it. Neither do I. Once we really take Italy and have air bases in Northern Italy the real job of invading Germany will come. The great air invasion of the past few months has been the prelude. I can't forget what General Montgomery said: 'The war has finally begun.' I think he is right. The preliminaries are over. The actors The actors have learned their lines. . . . The dress rehearsal have learned their lines. The dress rehearsal has been held. The orchestra has played the overture. The play is about to begin. The curtain rises.

"New York, December, 1942."

So wrote War Correspondent Quentin Reynolds upon his return from, among other spots, Russia, the Far East and the Mediterranean sector, in his latest eye-opener, "THE CURTAIN RISES." . . . (Published by Random House—$2.75.) . . . If you are one of those who believes that our wars are practically over, the reading of this book may shock you out of your complacency. . . .

One ranking American general has expressed the opinion that our conflict with Germany may be over "early in 1945." . . . This statement is at variance with the ideas prevalent during the early part of this year—that our operations in the European theatre might be over by the middle of 1944. . . . One unidentified contemporary has succinctly said "the war is over—all over but the fighting." . . .

WAR'S END AND PRICES

A great deal has been said, and may still be said, regarding the question of the time involved in the winning of our two wars, and the resultant effect upon the prices of the several types of outstanding Government obligations. . . . No one person, nor any one group of individuals, can possibly measure the net effect of factors which materialize suddenly and unexpectedly. . . . For example, the newspapers of Saturday, March 18, under a Washington date line, carried the news that the House Ways and Means Committee on Friday announced a plan for making tax figuring and tax paying simpler after Jan. 1, 1945. . . . In essence, the present normal tax of 6% would be eliminated and absorbed in surtax. . . . The 3% Victory tax, imposed upon annual gross incomes in excess of $624, would be done away with and a new 3% normal tax substituted for it. . . . The new tax apparently would apply on each taxpayer's net income exceeding $500. . . .

While this proposal is interpreted to apply only to individuals, the Street evidently believes that this move may possibly be but the forerunner of an attempt to consolidate the normal tax into a single surtax as applied to corporations. . . .

MARKET ACTION

At any rate, as far as the market is concerned, this news was ignored on Saturday morning, but most of the partially exempt issues moved off anywhere from 3/32s to 8/32s during Monday's trading session. . . . At this writing (3-21-44), the 2⅞s and the 2¾s 1965/60 are bid 111.31 and 111.21, respectively—off 18/32s and 19/32s from 1944's high bids. . . . In July of 1943 a rumor pertaining to the possibility of the elimination of the tax-exempt privilege enjoyed by certain Government obligations caused the market in such bonds to move off approximately three-quarters of a point. . . . Thereafter the market performed rather erratically and finally, by early October, regained approximately one-half point of its earlier losses. . . . It is worth remembering that the rally which followed the decline was initiated largely by a statement from Secretary Morgenthau which reassured interested investors that partially exempts would continue to retain their privileges. . . .

It may be some time before the House Ways and Means Committee proposal will go to the Senate. . . . It is impossible to appraise market performances of partially exempt obligations until one knows what will be the final decision of the House and the Senate. . . .

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Obviously, as far as cororation taxes are concerned, if the normal tax is to be absorbed into a single surtax, the prices of now outstanding partially exempts will decline. . . .

It is just as obvious that following a decline based upon such an assumption, if no changes are made in present corporation taxes, the market will undoubtedly advance as rapidly as it declined. . . .

EXCHANGE RESULTS

Secretary Morgenthau announced on March 20 the final results of the recent exchange offering and the allotment figures. . . . Of the $4,730,000,000 outstanding securities of these issues, $3,910,800,000, or about 83%, were exchanged as follows:

Description and Title—			Outstanding	Amount Exchange	To be Paid Off in Cash
U. S. Treasury	1s	3-15-44	$515,000,000	$482,635,900	$32,364,100
U. S. Treasury	3¼s	4-15-44	1,519,000,000	1,221,079,700	297,920,300
U. S. Treasury	¾s	6-15-44	416,000,000	269,194,300	146,805,700
F. F. M. C.	3¼s	3-15-44	95,000,000	75,904,300	19,095,700
F. F. M. C.	3s	5-15-44	835,000,000	700,246,550	134,753,450
R. F. C.	1s	4-15-44	571,000,000	559,220,000	11,780,000
H. O. L. C.	3s	5- 1-44	779,000,000	602,519,250	176,480,750

Inasmuch as $819,200,000 of these obligations will be paid off in cash, it would appear logical to assume that at least part of this cash will find its way back into the Government market, and because certain holders are giving up fully exempt or partially exempt income they might wish to invest in fully or partially exempt obligations as cash is available for investment. . . . Investors accepted $74,545,500 2½s, 1970/65; $93,048,500 of the 2¼s, 1959/56, and $3,910,800,000 of the 1½s, 9-15-48. Current bids on the three issues are: 2½s, 100.5; the 2¼s, 100.3; the 1½s, 100.6 plus. . . .

PAST EXCHANGES

For no particular reason, we recall a Treasury exchange offering which was made about March 6, 1939. Holders of $1,266,000,000 of June 2⅛% notes of 1939 were offered an exchange into the 1⅛s of December, 1943, at 101, the 2½s, 1952/50, at 102½, or the 2¾s, 1965/60, at 102⅜. . . . The value of the "Rights" involved averaged about 1 point 20/32s. . . . As a result of this offering, the issues involved moved up materially to their high of about 108.16 in June of 1939, only to decline to a low of approximately 99.8 in September as Germany invaded Poland and as war was declared by England and France on Germany on 9-3-39. . . . There was one other interesting refunding operation on Oct. 8, 1941. . . . This involved the exchange of the December 1¼s, 1941, into the 2½s, 1972/67, which issue was also offered for cash. . . . The "Rights" closed on Oct. 8 at 102.14, the new bonds were traded as high as 103.16 the following morning. . . . With the reopening of the 2½s, 1972/67, at 100 for cash on Dec. 4, 1941, and following Dec. 7 the market on this issue declined and has been subjected to some rather rough treatment since that time. . . .

However, we believe that the present price of the 2½s, 1972/67, at approximately 100.15 offers attractive income of 2.47% before taxes and net income of 1.48% after 24% normal and 16% surtax to any commercial banks willing to assume a long-term position.

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Situation Looks Good

The current situation in Houston Oil Company of Texas offers interesting possibilities according to a comparative study prepared by Edward D. Jones & Co. of the consolidated earnings figures of the Houston Oil Company of Texas and Houston Pipe Line Company for the past six years. Copies of this study may be had upon request from Edward D. Jones & Co., 300 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo., members of the New York and St. Louis Stock Exchanges, and other leading national exchanges.

Shields & Co. Will Admit B. F. Toole

Bernard F. Toole, Sr. will be admitted to partnership in Shields & Co., 44 Wall Street, New York City, members of the New York Stock Exchange and other exchanges. Mr. Toole will acquire the New York Stock Exchange membership of James F. Crowley, a partner in Shields & Co.

Interesting Income And Appreciation Possibilities

The 5% cumulative income debentures due 2032 of New Orleans Great Northern Railway Company offer interesting income and price appreciation possibilities as a result of company buying and/94 payments against the large interest arrears, or both, according to a detailed circular on the situation prepared by G. A. Saxton & Co. ,Inc., 70 Pine Street, New York City. Copies of the circular may be had upon request from G. A. Saxton & Co., Inc.

Appreciation Possibilities

Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc., 30 Broad Street, New York City, have prepared an interesting descriptive list of preferred shares which the firm believes offer definite appreciation possibilities; in addition some convertible preferred shares with appreciation chances are also discussed. Copies of the circular the firm is distributing may be had upon request from Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc.

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In 2 Sections—Section 2

The Commercial and FINANCIAL CHRONICLE

Reg. U. S. Pat. Office

Volume 159 Number 4266 New York, N. Y., Thursday, March 23, 1944 Price 60 Cents a Copy

The Financial Situation

The Securities and Exchange Commission has come forward with another of its remarkable findings concerning the "liquid savings" of the people of the United States. What business it has in this field is not explained, but that aspect of the matter is less important than the misleading nature of the material it is placing before a rather credulous public with the seal of the national government upon it.

This sentry of the securities markets, now turned economist, announces that "individuals" in the United States during the year of our Lord, 1943, accumulated "liquid savings" in the amount of $37.7 billion, against $29.5 billion in the previous year. The total of such "liquid savings" accumulated during the past four years is set forth at $81.8 billion. Notwithstanding the enormous size of these figures the Commission is convinced that anti-inflationary appeals are falling upon deaf ears, or else the sums would be considerably larger—in which it may well be right, since such appeals usually lack a good deal in effectiveness.

"The ratio of liquid saving to income after taxes has remained relatively constant since the middle of 1942, in contrast to the rapid increase in the proportion of income saved prior to that time," the SEC remarks in making its figures public. "It is noteworthy that during this 18-month period individuals did not show any disposition to curtail the proportion of their income, after taxes, spent on goods and services in spite of patriotic appeals, and the 'normal' tendency on the part of individuals to save a larger proportion of their earnings as income increases." To us, it appears hardly strange that relative to dollar income, savings have not been increasing during the period in question—in light of the rising costs of living and the probable decline in the stocks of consumers.

(Continued on page 1228)

From Washington Ahead Of The News

By CARLISLE BARGERON

One gathers from reading the magazines and otherwise, that there is a tremendous worry on the part of a lot of people as to whether the Republicans will "throw away their opportunity" in the forthcoming election. As we understand it, these sources think it is tremendously important to get Mr. Roosevelt out and this is the reason they are worrying so much about the Republicans, who are the only ones to get him out. We have doubted the genuineness of this worry but on the theory that there ought not to be this sort of worry, either phoney or genuine, abroad in the land, your correspondent has been making a study to find out if there is a basis for it.

We haven't concluded our study and this should by no means be considered a final report. It is what might be called a preliminary report such as the Truman Committee, for example, is wont to issue. But so far, we find that it is the New Dealers, or more specifically, the President, who is making the mistakes. We shan't go back to the tax bill veto which aroused Senator Barkley's ire. Take the soldier vote controversy. The Republicans outmaneuvered him on it all over the place.

In an effort to get the Federal bob-tailed ballot which he so dearly wanted and for quite obvious reasons, Mr. Roosevelt stamped the State, complete ballot plan as a "fraud" and it followed that he would veto a fraud. Nevertheless, Congress went right ahead and passed it. Because of the crisis with Congress which he had just provoked, the President stalled for time by sending telegrams to the Governors. He asked them just what they would do under the bill passed by Congress and said he would be guided by their answers. His political lieutenants went around shouting huzzahs. This was a political master stroke, they said. It showed the Chief had lost none of his political cunning. What he was doing was putting the Governors on the spot.

The Republicans, being right on top of him, immediately pointed out that there was not the slightest necessity for his action, that the Governors, or 46 of them, had already said what their Legislatures had done to facilitate voting by the armed forces and what they were making ready to do. All of this information had been spread in the Congressional Record for several weeks and had been the subject of considerable debate. Furthermore, they pointed out that it had made not the slightest difference what the President did. Congress had only proposed a formula. It had to be adopted by the various States to

(Continued on page 1235)

This Must Be A Century Of Opportunity For The Plain Folks: Henry A. Wallace

Vice-President Holds Only Full Use Of All Resources Can Give Full Employment To Individuals And Business Firms, Create A Large National Income And Enable Us To Carry The National Debt Safely—He Believes Title To War Plants Should Remain With Federal Agency To Create New Competition And New Production.

"It was part of the American tradition for more than 100 years that every man could make a living and prosper if he worked hard and was honest," Vice-president Henry A. Wallace said in an address before the Post-War Conference of Independent Enterprise of the American Business Congress, in New York City on March 17. "In 1930, however," Mr. Wallace continued, "innumerable businessmen found themselves bankrupt and millions of men who were anxious to work could find no jobs. There were 10,000,000 unemployed people in the United States in 1932 and the savings of millions had been wiped out and countless thousands had lost their homes." The balance of Mr. Wallace's address follows:

Henry A. Wallace

"Action was needed if we were to escape disaster. We got action. A bank holiday was declared which gave us an opportunity to separate the sound banks from the unsound banks. Bank deposits up to $5,000 were guaranteed and depositors took their money back to the banks. Appropriations were made for unemployment relief, and the hungry were fed. The Government of the United States carried out a program of public works, flood control and the prevention of soil erosion, which gave us a better land in which to live. Crop loans stopped farm bankruptcy in the South and West. Farm mortgages were refinanced and interest rates reduced Hundreds of thousands of farmers saved their farms and the loan companies and insurance companies were paid money, which they needed, and gave up farms, which they could not use. The Agricultural Adjustment Act was passed, which aided agriculture, and which has helped us feed our people and our allies during the war. The food stamp plan was adopted, which handled surpluses sensibly. The Securities and Exchange Act was passed protecting investors and outlawing Blue Sky Schemes. The Tennessee Valley Authority and a series of great dam projects were started, without which we could not have produced the electric power we are using so effectively in wartime. Unemployment compensation, old-age pensions and social security passed from the realm of dreams into reality. America met the challenge.

"In 1937 the President, realizing that aggressor nations were threatening the peace and well-being of the rest of the world, made his famous speech in Chicago in which he called upon us to quarantine the aggressors.

"Long before Pearl Harbor we shipped arms and destroyers to Britain, increased our army and navy and began to convert our civilian plants into war plants.

"Since Pearl Harbor we have trained and equipped more than 10,000,000 men who are fighting

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Further Comments On Subject Of World Peace Organization

In an article given in the "Chronicle" of March 9, captioned "Why A New League of Nations Will Not Ensure Permanent Peace," Alexander Wilson maintained among other things that the failure of the erstwhile league underscored his contention that any future attempt to "permanently enforce world peace and security" through an international organization is destined to failure. In taking issue with this thesis, William Garfield Lightbowne, whose views were contained in a letter published on the cover page of Section Two of our issue of March 16, contended that the horrors of the current world conflict only serves to emphasize the urgent necessity toward establishing a world peace organization. Mr. Lightbowne also referred to the potential danger of warfare in Asia on the issue of "white supremacy" as pointing out the need for unremitting efforts in the development of measures to assure peaceful settlement of disputes. A number of other communications have been received regarding the subject and these are given herewith:

Editor, The Commercial & Financial Chronicle:

Alexander Wilson's "League of Nation" article in the March 9 issue is a very realistic approach to the subject under discussion. I like it so well that I have practically committed it to memory.

Mr. Lightbowne's comment in the March 16 issue is likewise very interesting, in that it represents the opposite viewpoint. I wish, however, that Mr. Lightbowne had gone a little further and specified whom he thought qualified to head the world peace body.

Who is qualified to dominate such an organization, assuming that one is formed?

Will it be dominated by the imperialistic nations which heretofore have hogged the choicest areas of the earth and are fighting now because they want to continue doing so; or will it be a truly democratic organization subject to majority rule? And if it is the latter, how will we white skins react to decisions unfavorable to our interests which might well be since we are greatly outnumbered by yellow, red and black combined.

Mr. Lightbowne answers that question himself in the following paragraph quoted from his article:

"The time may come when the "Yellow Peril" will be a reality and not just a nightmare; when the white races may have to pool all their resources to hold their own against the 'rising tide of color.' "

Any world peace organization which does not afford equal rights of control to all peoples regardless of race, color or previous status (whether friends or enemies) will be just another military alliance, sure to be in trouble as soon as some outside group grows strong enough to challenge its authority if indeed it is not broken up sooner by rivalries engendered in its own body.

* * *

After all, aren't we being a trifle naive in dreaming about "Universal and Everlasting Peace." Such a thing has never been known and I for one doubt that it will ever be known. Men will go on fighting until their civilization is destroyed and the world

(Continued on page 1234)

Atlantic Charter vs. Atlantic Charter

"Two criteria are plainly and indisputably relevant to a territorial settlement after the war. The first is the principle of self determination, the second is the necessity for so framing the settlment as to assure the attainment of those aims, 'freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want' which are implicit in the charter as a whole. The first of these criteria may on occasion have to yield to the second.

"Whatever may have been true in past centuries, the division of Europe today into 20 or 30 sovereign independent units, owing no allegiance to any higher authority, is incompatible with the military security and economic well being of the European peoples. This is a hard, irrefutable fact. To attempt to override it on the grounds of any general theory of self determination would be an act not of high political principle but of political madness."—The "Times" of London.

In matters such as there the "Times" of London has in the past been perhaps the most influential press organ in the world.

It is now injecting an element of realism into a situation which is badly in need of it.

The State Of Trade

The overall picture of industrial production and the state of trade the past week revealed a tendency to maintain, if not surpass, the gains established in previous weeks. Steel production was expected to display a modest advance, while carloadings declined by less than one point. Electric kilowatt output, however, rose 12.2% over a year ago, with retail trade enjoying a substantial increase of business induced in part by heavier consumer demand prior to the levying of increased excise taxes and the advent of an early Easter this year.

Touching upon production of electricity, we find that output decreased to 4,425,630,000 kilowatt hours in the week ended March 11, from 4,464,686,000 in the preceding week, as reported by the Edison Electric Institute. This was a gain of 12.2% over the year ago total of 3,944,679,000. Consolidated Edison Company of New York reports system output of 212,200,000 kilowatt hours in the week ended March 12, an increase of 25.9% over the 1943 total of 168,600,000.

Carloadings of revenue freight for the week ended March 11, totaled 781,533 cars, the Association of American Railroads announced. This was a decrease of 6,722 cars, or nine-tenths of one per cent below the preceding week this year, but an increase above the corresponding week of 1943 of 12,488 cars, or 1.6%, and a decrease of 17,823 cars or 2.2% below the same week in 1942.

In connection with the statement on freight loadings, it is interesting to note that the railroad companies put into service in January and February of this year, 5,174 new freight cars and 180 locomotives, as against 2,996 cars and 99 locomotives one year ago. On March 1, the roads had on order 33,012 freight cars and 779 locomotives as compared with 19,329 cars and 499 locomotives on Mar. 1, 1943, as reported by the same source.

Steel production in the United States is at the second highest level on record for the industry this week. According to the American Iron & Steel Institute, scheduled output is placed at 99.2 per cent of rated capacity for the week beginning March 20, equivalent to 1,777,000 tons of steel ingots and castings. This compares with operations at the rate of 99.1 per cent and output of 1,775,200 tons a week ago, representing a peak since the industry established its record of 1,781,300 tons in the week beginning October 11, 1943, when, however, a smaller capacity was available.

The dominant feature of the steel market, says "Steel" magazine, is the continued and increased demand for steel sheets and plates with war requirements increasing rather than lessening as the year advances. "Shipwork, landing craft, pontons, landing mats, overseas containers and signal corps equipment are at the top of preference, with directives necessary for prompt delivery," states "Steel."

The "Iron Age" in its issue of March 16, revealed that the industry is feeling the adverse effects of the manpower shortage with the pinch growing tighter as a result of the new policy of Selective Service in combing the ranks of labor to meet induction quotas for the armed forces. Touching upon the problem it said, "the demand and production of steel for war are at such frenzied levels that problems of inadequate manpower, overburdened equipment and badly congested order books are returning rapidly and perhaps more forcefully than at previous periods in the past two years. Continuing, it stated, "The big big drive by Selective Service, responding to the urging of the President, has resulted in cancellation of industry replacement schedules and other severe steps in some areas. The serious shortage is in common labor. With employee ranks being depleted, inefficiency, which is already estimated at 23% above normal by at least one representative steel maker, will rise higher. Repairs are now taking longer to complete than was formerly the case, a situation which presents a threat if all-out production is to be required over any length of time."

Not only is the steel industry confronted with this problem of manpower, but war plants as a whole are warning the War Man-Power Commission that if their key men are not protected from the draft, war production will necessarily suffer as a consequence. Selective Service, however, continues to reflect a steadfast attitude that no new list of supercritical jobs would be promulgated.

Industrial production regained in January part of the decline sustained in December, according to the index compiled by The Cleveland Trust Company and appearing in its Business Bulletin under date of March 15. We learn from this source, that physical volume of industrial production was 40.7 per cent above the computed normal level in October, 39.7 per cent above in November and 35.4 per cent in December. The preliminary estimate for January was 37.8 per cent above normal. Durable and nondurable goods participated in this advance, the Bulletin reports, with the most important increase occurring in output of iron and steel, which regained its November level, and in the manufacture of textile products, which recovered about one-half of the December loss. Small advances were noted in the production of leather, stone, clay and glass and food products. As an offset to these advances, further declines took place in the output of transportation equipment, tobacco products and chemicals.

The Department of Commerce of the United States, in its March issue of Domestic Commerce, revealed a gradual easing of the war need for machine tools. This was demonstrated, Domestic Commerce states, "by heretofore confidential data on shipments, which totaled $1,119,343,000 for 11 months ending with November, 1943, compared with $1,321,748,000 for the full year of 1942. Monthly shipments declined steadily after last March, and in November were $71,811,000, far below the peak of $131,960,000 reached in December, 1942. November unfilled orders of the industry ($246,509,000) represent less than a four month output at the current rate of production.

The United States Department of Labor, reporting on commodity prices in primary markets during the week ended March 11, states that they were generally unchanged, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index, covering nearly 900 price series, remained at 103.4 per cent of the 1926 average. Continued seasonal advances for certain fruits and vegetables and higher prices for wheat, hogs, and cotton were offset by lower prices for eggs, wheat flour and anthracite.

Bringing to a close the extended monthly decline in New York City department store inventories in comparison with the previous year, stocks on hand at the close of February, 1944 were 12 per cent higher than on the same date in 1943 as taken from a report issued last Monday by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The report further stated, that merchandise stocks of apparel specialty shops, chiefly in this city, were 25 per cent higher.

An increase of 17 per cent in department store sales in New York and Brooklyn took place during the week ended March 18, over the corresponding period of 1943. Reasons given for the sharp upturn were heavier consumer demand prior to the effective date for increased excise taxes and an earlier Easter this year. For the month of February of the current year, figures for the entire Second Federal Reserve District reflected a decline of 3 per cent in department store sales from a year ago, while stocks on hand were up 11 per cent. Department store sales on a country-wide basis rose 11 per cent for the week ended March 11, compared with the like week a year ago, the Federal Reserve Board reports, while sales for the four week's period ended March 11, slumped 2 per cent compared with a similar period last year, and by 1 per cent for the year to March 11, over a like period one year ago.

An indication of the drastic effects of war-time shortages of civilian goods on mail order houses was gleaned from the annual report of Montgomery Ward & Co. released this week. Sales of this company fell off 6.2 per cent in 1943 compared with 1942, notwithstanding the heavy demand for merchandise. As a consequence, its normally profitable mail-order division was operated at a loss.

A bright spot in the week's news was the release by the Securities and Exchange Commission of its analysis wherein it showed that liquid savings of individuals during 1943 amounted to $37,700,000,000, the highest on record, and compared with $29,500,000,000 in 1942 and $10,600,000,000 in 1941. This sharp increase reflected mainly "the higher level of income in the hands of individuals after payment of taxes," the SEC pointed out.

New York Board Of Trade Opposes Creation Of A State Division Of Aviation

Also Opposes State Technical Institute Of Aeronautics

In two separate meetings on March 15th, the Aviation Section and the Executive Committee of the New York Board of Trade, opposed the Assembly introductory bills proposing the creation of a State Division of Aviation and likewise, the provision of a State Technical Institute of Aeronautics.

The Board points out that pending in the Legislature of the New York Assembly is an Introductory Bill 980, the purpose of which is to create in the Executive Department of the State, a Division of Aviation and to designate the powers and duties of this Division. The bill would provide for a Commissioner at $10,000 per year and would appropriate $50,000 of tax revenues for the expenses of the Division.

Commenting on this bill, Matthew G. Ely, President of the New York Board of Trade said:

"It is obvious that air transportation crosses many state lines, and that seldom, if ever, is air travel a matter of intra-state concern. Air transportation and certain elements of the aviation industry are presently under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aeronautics Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce and the industry at large is closely supervised and regulated by the Federal government. It is entirely unnecessary for the several states to exercise additional jurisdiction over air transportation."

The Executive Committee of the New York Board of Trade went on record also, as opposing a State Assembly Introductory Bill 977 which is designed to authorize and to provide for a State Technical Institute of Aeronautics, and to provide $2,000,000, of tax funds for that purpose. At its meeting, held in the Lexington Hotel, the Executive Board of the Aviation Section, New York Board of Trade, also actively opposed both bills. This Board had made an intensive survey and study of both bills, because its membership embraces a broad and diverse cross section of the entire aviation industry of the Metropolitan area.

Summing up of the attitude of the Aviation Section, the Section Chairman, John F. Budd, Editor and Publisher of Air Transportation said especially of the bill to create a State Technical Institute of Aeronautics, "the war emergency has created all over the country facilities for the study of Aeronautics. In addition, there are many excellent private and civilian institutions, already fully qualified to give instruction in these lines on a high level of practical industrial benefit."

Telegrams petitioning the Governor and the Legislature were sent by Mr. Ely, President, stating the Board's stand on these bills.

Banks Well Equipped To Take Care Of Post-War Credit Needs, Says Gen. Ayres

Questions Recommendation In Baruch Report For Additional Federal Reserve Authority To Make Loans

Expressing the opinion that "American banks are exceedingly well equipped to take care of all the sound and bankable post-war credit needs that may develop," Brig.-Gen. Leonard P. Ayres, Vice-President of the Cleveland Trust Co. of Cleveland, Ohio., points out that "never before have they been in such a strong and liquid condition as they are at present."

He goes on to say that "it seems strange that Messrs. Baruch and Hancock should have recommended in their report on post-war planning and policy that the Federal Reserve Banks and the Smaller War Plants Corporation should be granted additional authority to make loans for industrial reconversion and to supply working capital for small business. Existing commercial banks are eagerly seeking sound loans, and their ability to extend credit is ample to meet almost any demand."

Gen. Ayres' views are contained in the trust company's "Business Bulletin" issued March 15, in which he also has the following to say regarding bank assets:

"Investments are now by far the most important assets of commercial banks, and nearly all of these investments are Federal securities. Ever since 1933 the proportion of investments in bank portfolios has been increasing, but the truly phenomenal growth in their volume has taken place during the war years. In the diagram . . . the four superimposed areas represent for the past 34 years from 1910 through 1943 the four chief classes of earning assets of commercial banks. The data are taken from the annual reports of the Comptroller of the Currency, and represent the holdings of all commercial banks on June 30 of each year.

"Back in 1910 commercial loans composed more than 41% of the assets, and that proportion increased to more than 50% of them in several years of the 1920's. Last year such loans made up only 15% of the earning assets. At the beginning of the period in 1910 loans secured by collateral made up over 29% of the assets. At the peak of the period of security speculation in 1929 they comprised about 25% of the assets. Now they have decreased so far, both in actual amount and in relative importance, that they make up only a little over 2% of the assets. They are now smaller in volume than they were 34 years ago in 1910.

"Loans secured by real estate have had a more nearly constant relationship to the total volume of earning assets than has any other class of holding. They made up a little more than 6% of the whole in 1910, and they were still a little over 6% of the total last year. In 1929 they comprised a little more than 9% of the assets.

"During almost all of the long period under discussion the relative importance of investments as components of the earning assets has been increasing. In 1910 they constituted nearly 23% of the holdings, and by 1933 the proportion had increased to almost 46%. By 1943 it was close to 77%, and the volume of such holdings amounted to nearly 60 billion dollars. These vast holdings of investments consist very largely, and in most banks almost wholly, of government securities."

What's To Happen To Colored Workers?

Babson Urges Them To Save Money

BABSON PARK, FLA.—I am writing to the several million of colored people in this country. Moreover, I do so as a friend—one who has contributed money and time to help them.

America's Greatest Wasters

The way you are foolishly spending money today is a shame and disgrace. Not only are most of you now wasting money, but you are almost convincing your friends that you are unworthy to have good wages. You are showing an utter disregard of any knowledge of finances or economics.

Roger W. Babson

Present high wages cannot continue. Many of you will be out of employment after the War. Millions of war workers will be discharged and—although it will be unjust—you will be discharged first. Therefore you should save up money NOW to help you in these hard days ahead. Most white workers are now doing this.

Why So Lazy

Some of you foolishly refuse to work if you have a little cash in your pockets. This applies to great strong men and women as well as to you young people. Too many of you seem to have no regard for the needs of the country in this crucial hour. You are citizens as well as the white workers. You claim you are not treated right. I do not agree to this; but if it is true, it is because so many of you are lazy and wasteful.

I am writing this in the South where I have worked with colored people for twenty winters. I have fought for you and got you out of jail when the sheriff unjustly arrested you. I know your good points and weak points; but I never before saw you in the lazy, wasteful and saucy moods that some of you put on today. From letters which I get, I fear that you are behaving worse in the North than you are here in the South.

Don't Depend Upon Aunt Eleanor

Many of you say, "Aunt Eleanor will take care of me after the War". Perhaps Aunt Eleanor will not be the President's wife after the War! President Roosevelt may not be re-elected. Besides, even Mrs. Roosevelt is getting out of patience with you. She is beginning to wonder if she may not have made a mistake in praising you as she did. It is true that white workers strike when they shouldn't, but they are not lazy nor do they throw away money.

Does it ever occur to you what would happen to our country if all the people—white and colored —acted as so many of you colored people act? We would lose the War and we all, including you, would be slaves of the Germans or Japanese. Your attitude simply does not make sense from any point of view. Therefore, as a friend, I beg of you all to get all the work you can get; and save, save, save!

A True Story

Let me prove that colored boys have just as good an opportunity to succeed as white boys. A few years ago Webber College at Babson Park, Florida, employed colored boys in the kitchen. Among them was one named James Paul Goss. The dean noticed that whereas all the others went to the movies or shot craps in the evening James practiced for hours to learn typing. When the summer vacation came, he begged me to take him North and get him a job in an office. This I did. It was James' first opportunity.

James did so well that I brought him back to Florida in the Fall. That winter he typed all my newspaper columns. In March, 1942, he was drafted. One day an officer asked if anyone of the men could type. James held up his hand. Then he was given his second opportunity. He has not held a gun since that day. He gradually worked into administrative duties. He became a corporal, a sergeant, a second, and then a first, lieutenant. He now is a Captain with savings of $5,000 in bank and life insurance values. When one of his colored friends was asked why James got on so well he replied: "Well, you know, James does not drink or smoke; he works and saves and reads his Bible every day." Last week, James was given his third opportunity at Camp Springs Army Air Field, Washington, D. C.

U. S. Gold To Aid China Stabilize Prices

The Chungking radio on March 17, in a broadcast reported by the U. S. Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, said that Dr. H. H. Kung, Vice-Premier and Finance Minister of China, declared in a press interview at Kunming that China would use $200,000,000 in gold purchased from the United States to stabilize prices and absorb idle capital "in order to strengthen the Chinese dollar." This was reported in the New York "Herald-Tribune" of March 18, which further stated:

"The United States and Great Britain in 1942 jointly lent China $700,000,000 to put China's currency and fiscal affairs on a sound basis. The United States supplied $500,000,000 of the loan, part in gold and part in dollars.

"Dr. Kung, the broadcast said, explained that 'people likely will abandon hoarding of commodities and invest their money in gold, hence stabilizing prices.'"

Ton-Miles Of Revenue Freight Up 10.3% In Feb.

The volume of freight traffic, measured in ton-miles of revenue freight, handled by the Class I railroads in February, 1944, was greater by approximately 10.3% than any corresponding month on record, the Association of American Railroads announced on March 22. Traffic in February amounted to approximately 60,000,000,000 ton-miles, according to preliminary estimates based on reports just received by this Association from Class I railroads. This was an increase of 10.3%, compared with the same month in 1943, 47% over February, 1942, and an increase of 160%, compared with February, 1939.

The following table summarizes actual ton-miles statistics for the year 1943, and preliminary figures for the first two months of 1944 (000 omitted):

	1943	1942	% Inc.
Mo. of Dec.__	60,614,577	55,036,940	10.1
Year 1943 __	727,047,608	638,075,933	13.9
	1944	1943	
Mo. of Jan.__	*60,800,000	55,120,899	10.3
Mo. of Feb.__	†60,000,000	54,419,933	10.3

*Revised estimate. †Preliminary estimate.

This Must Be A Century Of Opportunity For The Plain Folks: Henry A. Wallace

(Continued from First Page)

on many fronts, and who are winning this war. We are winning the battle of production. It is the biggest war production effort ever undertaken.

"I mention this record of great accomplishments because I am sure that a nation which courageously faced a great depression at the beginning of the New Deal Administration and which courageously prepared for a war can also face the challenge of the peace.

"The people of the United States are united in their determination to win this war. American industry, American business and American agriculture can look forward to a bright future if the markets of peace are expanded to take the place of the markets of war. We cannot have free enterprise unless the world is at peace.

"We must maintain the peace. The Teheran Conference has laid the groundwork. All peace-loving nations will be given an opportunity to cooperate in rebuilding the shattered world and perfecting a permanent organization for peace.

"During the war we have seen that it is possible to produce a national income of $150,000,000,000 a year—the largest in our history. Large industry as well as small businesses have profited from selling their maximum production. The profits accruing from this maximum output have been enormous compared to profits from restricted production. Farmers are prosperous because they have been able to sell at fair prices all that they could produce, and workers in our factories have had steady incomes from full employment. The benefits of a full-production economy can give employment to all. And prosperity for small and large business alike depends on full employment.

"When this war has been won we want every man and woman in America who has ambition and a willingness to work hard to have the opportunity to prove, in a market free from unfair restrictions, that he has something to contribute to the productivity and happiness of this nation.

"I believe in free enterprise. I believe that an economy of abundance and full employment can be best achieved through our American system of free enterprise. Free enterprise does not mean artificial controls of production and distribution of goods. Free enterprise is inconsistent with monopolies and cartel domination of world markets. Free enterprise means equal opportunity for investors and businessmen, for farmers and workers to produce the goods and services which truly constitute our national wealth.

"Free enterprise means that each and every industry is open to new capital and new firms—that all business has free access to raw materials in labor, to technologies—that producers have free access to the markets in which they buy and sell—that all individuals, in accordance with their varying abilities and irrespective of color, race and creed, have equal opportunities to work at their chosen jobs.

"In the tasks assigned to them during the war small businessmen have done a magnificent job. It will be even more important that small business continues to function when reconversion begins—that adequate resources are available to permit them to participate in this great task. Small businessmen have always been the foundation of our American economic system — it is vitally important that they continue as producers and distributors in our American system.

"In the building of our postwar national economy, particular attention must be given to the opportunities for small business enterprises. Small business provides an outlet for new ideas and products, a training ground for new leaders and an effective competitive check on big business which might otherwise confuse mere size with efficiency. The greatest contribution which government can make to the progress of small business is the creation and preservation of genuine free enterprise. Given access to the necessary technologies and to the capital markets, small enterprise in industry and trade will flourish. And such small business, by reason of its inherent resilience and flexibility, can become the mainstay of our regional economies, the balance wheel of the national economy. Men of small vision after World War I believed the way out of the depression was to stop both production and consumption. Before we were plunged into World War II there were many in strategic places in business and industry who were still afraid of production—afraid that increased productive capacity for defense would be ruinous to business profits, and the result was that we entered the war with disastrously critical shortages of capacity in aluminum, in steel, in magnesium and in other industries. We must conquer this fear of production in industry as well as in agriculture—we must recognize that in peace as in war our national security and well-being lies in full production, that only full use of all resources can give full employment to individuals and business firms, create a large national income and enable us to carry the national debt safely.

"Specifically, there are a number of steps to be taken to make this possible.

"First, the greatest opportunity lies in the war plants built with government funds. In the manner of their post-war use lies the acid test of whether we are sincere in our determination to reestablish genuine free enterprise. We must not regard such plants as liabilities to be disposed of hastily; we must not allow the disposition of these plants to add to the concentration of control in industries which are already monopolistic. The plants must be kept in full production to create the enlarged national income required to support a new American standard of living. As a final sale of these war plants would probably result in their being acquired sooner or later by a few large concerns, I have suggested that title should remain in a Federal agency, and that these plants should be leased to independent producers who will create new competition and new production.

"Second, there must be adequate financing machinery to supply small business enterprises with the capital which they need for the purchase of equipment or plants. It is, of course, my hope that private banking institutions throughout the United States will recognize that small business is good business. But if concentration of investment financing in a few large cities becomes the order of the day and if financing activities are limited to a few large firms, government agencies will, of necessity, furnish financing services to the small businessman. I hope very much that this will not be necessary.

"Third, raw materials in government stockpiles, when offered for sale should be equally accessible to all—so that small concerns can buy their fair share. Precautions should be taken to prevent speculation in and cornering of surplus goods. There should be the widest possible distribution of such surpluses.

"Fourth, the basic technologies of modern industry must be restored to and remain a part of the public domain. This is not an attack on the patent system; it is a necessary measure to make the patent system conform to its constitutional purpose—to promote the progress of science and useful arts. It must become impossible to use patents to monopolize entire industries.

"The solution is simple—all patents should be subject to open licensing at a reasonable fee—one which affords a reasonable return to the inventor and promotes the wider and wider use of the patent. And no license should be permitted to stipulate how much the licensee shall produce, what he shall charge or where he shall sell.

"Fifth, the government's tax policies have an important influence on business activity. In a peacetime economy, the tax program should have a double objective—to bring in the necessary revenue and to encourage the production of the largest possible national income. Taxes which impair the ability of consumers to purchase the products of agriculture and industry, or which discourage the investment of risk capital in new undertakings, must be avoided in our drive for all-out production. The tax program can and should be framed with attention to the large objectives of the economy—full use of all of our resources.

"No statement of general principles of policy, no matter how lofty or well-intentioned, will be of any use unless such policy is put into practice. Hence it is vital that our leaders in industry, agriculture and labor understand their own responsibilities and the responsibilities of the government in their common effort to assure continued full use of all resources. Business policies must be framed with this long-range objective in view. Forward-looking businessmen will welcome the cooperation of the Government in maintaining full employment and will work with government agencies toward that end. Business and government must cooperate in the enforcement of the anti-trust laws to assure free enterprise. Cooperation will further be necessary in the creation of a public works program which can be used by the Government during periods of business recession, and curtailed by the Government when business can provide full employment and maximum use of productive capacity. Individual businessmen and individual industries, as well as our whole economy, can be greatly helped by the stabilizing effect of public works programs carried out by competent administrative machinery. This machinery should be operated by Government officials, responsible to the people of our country. Decisions should be made by officials who can be held to account. . . .

"Business can discharge its public responsibilities and preserve itself only by maintaining conditions of genuine free enterprise. Whether or not we have free enterprise and the full use of all productive resources will depend on our understanding that our way of life is at stake—and the determination of all of us to test every private and public policy by whether it contributes to the full use of all of our resources. The price of survival and progress is the whole-hearted acceptance of healthy, unrestrained competition —competition in price as well as in quality and service.

"We shall win the military victory. We must have a peaceful world thereafter. We must preserve America as a land of economic opportunity for all of our people. This must be the century of opportunity for the plain folks in all lands."

The Financial Situation

(Continued from First Page)

What Is An "Individual"?

But far more important are some of the other aspects of the figures and the interpretation the Commission places upon them. In the first place, the term "individual" apparently includes—indeed, must of statistical necessity, include—many businesses, including farms, operated by men and women as individuals. It is important that this fact be borne in mind, since it tends to alter somewhat the meaning one is warranted in finding in the figures as presented. According to Federal reserve authorities, the increase during 1943 in total deposits "adjusted" and currency in circulation outside the banks amounted to $23.2 billion. The SEC has the increase in the currency and bank deposit holdings of "individuals" during the same period amounting to $15.8 billion. What the SEC apparently is saying is that cash and deposits standing to the credit of all unincorporated holders increased $15.8 billion in 1943. In view of the enormously increased volume of business being transacted and many drastic changes necessitating stronger cash position one may well question the accuracy of the term "saving" as applied in this instance.

Strangest of all probably is the sense in which the term "liquid" is used by the Commission—or at least it would be strange were it not today in such constant use in precisely this peculiar way. But the mere fact that many people are misusing the word or the concept does not in the least render such use accurate, or prevent widespread and serious misunderstanding arising from such misuse. According to the Commission, these enormous savings during 1943 took the form of (1) additions to holdings of currency and bank deposits standing to the names of individuals, $15.8 billion; (2) increase in holdings of government bonds, $13.8 billion; additions to equity holdings in government insurance, $3.8 billion; increase in their equity in private insurance, $3.1 billion; reduction in private debt, $.9 billion. As an offsetting factor, individuals reduced their holdings of corporate securities by $300 million.

Liquid?

Apart from the $15.8 billion in actual currency or bank deposits, in what sense can any of these items be termed "liquid"? One must suppose that the term when so used connotes ready convertibility into cash. But how could all those individuals who hold some $13.8 billion in government obligations acquired during the one year, **1943**, turn their holdings into cash? They could do so only if (1) some one who now owns cash is willing to give it up for these bonds, (2) some one who in the future acquires and accumulates cash is willing to exchange it for the bonds, or (3) commercial banks add to their deposits for the purpose of providing cash with which to buy the bonds.

If the bonds are converted into cash by the first of these three methods, then whatever part of the $15.8 billion of currency and bank deposits is necessary must be given up for the purpose. By what process of reasoning is it possible in such a case to justify adding the bonds to the cash and calling the sum **liquid** savings? It appears that it is necessary to give up the one in order to convert the other into cash—on the basis of past savings or present status. If the bonds are to be converted into cash by use of funds yet to be saved, then their liquidity depends upon future savings—and can not be posted as existing at present. If they are to be converted to cash by the arbitrary creation of the funds for the purpose, it may be questioned whether the term liquid has any meaning at all if so applied. The Brooklyn Bridge could be converted into cash on such a basis—provided all parties were willing to proceed.

But if this process of reasoning applies in the case of government bonds, it by the same token applies in all the other instances. Holders of equities in government insurance can obtain cash upon them only if the government is able to provide the cash. This cash it must acquire either by taxing the public in the future—that is, tapping future savings—or by borrowing from the public; that is, either tapping existing supplies of currency and deposits or future accumulations. Private insurance companies would be able to convert claims upon them into cash only by converting their assets into cash—a process in which they call upon the holders of savings. Those individuals who have saved by paying off debt, can of course cash in on their savings only by reinstating the debt.

A Matter Of Importance

To the unthinking, all this type of discussion may appear to be hardly more than academic. Such, however, is most emphatically not the case. Of such displays as this of the SEC, and of many others who have been guilty of about the same type of slovenly thinking blunders, disastrous blunders in public policy are born.

February Cotton Consumption Report

The Census Bureau at Washington on Mar. 15 issued its report showing cotton consumed in the United States, cotton on hand, and active cotton spindles for the month of February.

In the month of February, 1944, cotton consumed amounted to 811,274 bales of lint and 106,846 bales of linters as compared with 819,489 bales of lint and 99,117 bales of linters in January, 1944, and with 879,572 bales of lint and 98,259 bales of linters in February, 1944.

In the seven months ending with Feb. 29, cotton consumption was 5,902,172 bales of lint and 759,714 bales of linters, against 6,502,880 bales fo lint and 784,493 bales of linters in the same seven months a year ago.

There were 2,351,174 bales of lint and 459,485 bales of linters on hand in consuming establishments on Feb. 29, 1944, which compares with 2,377,580 bales of lint and 466,076 bales of linters on Jan. 31, 1944, and with 2,552,163 bales of lint and 501,948 bales of linters on Feb. 28, 1943.

On hand in public storage and at compresses on Feb. 29, 1944 there were 11,518,942 bales of lint and 96,277 bales of linters, which compares with 12,120,142 bales of lint and 82,227 bales of linters on Jan. 31, 1943, and with 12,349,207 bales of lint and 96,277 bales of linters on Feb. 28, 1942.

There were 22,513,390 cotton spindles active during February 1944, which compares with 22,217,994 active cotton spindles during January, 1944, and with 22,906,562 active cotton spindles during February, 1943.

Non-Farm Mortgage Recordings Lower By $302 Million In Jan.

During January, recordings of non-farm real estate mortgages throughout the nation totaled $302,000,000, a decrease of 9% from December but nearly a third greater than in January, 1943, the Federal Home Loan Bank Administration reported on March 11. The December-January decline this year was less than normal at this season, the report said. The estimates are based on recordings of mortgages of $20,000 or less, says the FHLBA, which added:

"Individuals" increased their total of recordings by 44% for the month, as compared with January 1943, while insurance companies gained 3%. Activity of savings and loan associations rose 38% over 1943 for the month and other types of lenders scored gains of 21% to 30%.

Of the total volume of mortgages recorded by all lenders during January savings and loan associations accounted for 30%. Individual lenders were second with 24%, while mutual savings banks showed the lowest percentage of the aggregate recordings, 3%.

The number and amount of mortgages of $20,000 or less recorded in January, by type of lender, are as follows:

	Number	Amount	Per Cent
S. & l. assns.	29,315	089,887,000	30
Ins. cos.	4,214	20,585,000	7
Bk. & tr. cos.	17,518	62,180,000	21
Mut. svgs. banks	2,351	9,731,000	3
Individuals	28,923	72,600,000	24
Others	12,209	46,966,000	15
Totals	94,530	$301,949,000	100

Report Of U. S. Steel Corporation

An all-time record production of 30,540,000 tons of ingots was set by the United States Steel Corporation in 1943, according to the 42nd annual report released for publication March 23. Corporation's rolled and finished steel products, according to Irving S. Olds, Chairman of the Board, were many and varied. Some in finished form went directly to the battle areas; others were used in the construction of equipment and many types of vessels; the remainder was absorbed in the fulfilment of other requirements of war. For the three years 1941-1943, total ingot production by U. S. Steel subsidiaries was more than 89,500,000 tons, exceeding the 1916-1918 production by 21,500,000 tons or 32%. Production of steel plates vital to the shipbuilding program exceeded by 11% the 1942 record of 4,000,000 tons. More than one-third of the nation's supply of plates last year came from the mills of U. S. Steel. The corporation is now operating steel mills, some of which belong to the Government, which will have when completed this year an annual ingot capacity in excess of 33,800,000 tons. To supply the raw materials required for this record-breaking production of ingots, U. S. Steel produced and transported in 1943, 96,729,023 tons of ore, coal and limestone. U. S. Steel produced in its plants during 1943 hundreds of types of war materials, ranging from bomb fins and gun foundations to troopships, destroyers and other naval vessels.

Mr. Olds states that during 1943 United States Steel Corp. continued to do its utmost toward the winning of the war. Its great facilities have aided materially in making possible a vital service of supply, beginning with mining operations in the ore and coal fields of America and extending to the delivery of steel and instruments of war for the plains of Russia, the wide stretches of North Africa, the islands of the Pacific, the hills of Italy, and the mountains and valleys of Burma and China. Operating under governmental directives determining wage rates and terms of employment, manpower orders, ceiling prices, and production controls largely regulating the character of its business, U. S. Steel met fully the war demands made upon it during the year. It recognized a duty to provide the maximum production and otherwise serve the nation to the best of its ability. But, because rising costs pressed upward against the Government-imposed price ceilings, U. S. Steel was not able, after the payment of modest dividends to its common stockholders, to make an adequate addition to the fund carried forward for future needs. A continuation of such a state of affairs may prove serious to U. S. Steel and ultimately to the nation, as this fund constitutes insurance against the times when the customers' demand for steel may be small and the need for cash may be great.

The report describes in simple language the disposition made of the $1,976,844,751 received by the corporation for products and services sold during 1943. Of this amount, $912,929,963 were expended for wages, salaries, pensions and other employment costs, an increase of 45% over the similar figure for 1941. Products and services bought in 1943 amounted to $706,763,355, an increase of 22% over 1941. By reason of increased labor and other costs in 1943, profits subject to Federal taxes were lower, resulting in lesser taxes than for the years 1942 or 1941. Taxes for 1943 aggregated $129,566,379, an amount 23% less than the tax provision for 1941. Dividends to preferred and common stockholders in 1943 remained unchanged at $60,032,685. The amount of $3,415,861 carried forward for future needs of the corporation was 94% less than the amount so carried forward in 1941.

Referring to these figures, the report states "U. S. Steel has no paying power beyond the dollars received from customers. It has no power to operate its facilities or to hire men and women if it has no customers for its goods and services; nor does it have the power to turn out first-class, well-priced goods with worn-out tools or against uncontrollable costs. It is apparent that rising labor costs pushing against price ceilings are absorbing the payments to both Government and owners. Substantial increases in wages could reduce them to nothing."

Income of United States Steel Corporation and subsidiaries was $63,448,546 in 1943—a decrease of 11% from the preceding year, although total sales volume was 6% greater than in 1942. The relatively small sum of $3,415,861 carried forward for future needs in 1943, after the payment of dividends, was about one-third of the amount so carried forward in 1942, and was equivalent to about one-sixth of 1% of the total amount received from customers in 1943. The report comments that this sum would cover costs at current operating rates for less than one day.

Contracts of thirteen of the fourteen subsidiary companies subject to the renegotiation Act were renegotiated by the Navy Price Adjustment Board, acting for all Governmental agencies, and the thirteen companies were found to have realized no excessive income up to December 31, 1942. The renegotiation with the remaining subsidiary of this group, Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., resulted in a reduction of $3,000,000 in the selling prices of deliveries under Navy Department contracts up to December 31, 1942. After Federal taxes, this amounts to a refund of $570,000, which is a reduction of the reported income of U. S. Steel for the year 1942.

Achievements of U. S. Steel's shipyards during the past year are described in the report. Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. delivered from its yards at Kearny and Port Newark, N. J., 80 ships. These included destroyers, destroyer escorts, transports and naval auxiliaries, worth about $300,000,000, exceeding the value of all vessels produced by this company in the 25 years from its founding in 1917 to December 7, 1941. For the seventh year in succession this subsidiary increased ship production over the previous year by more than 50%. In 1943, it again completed more destroyers in shorter building time than any other shipyard in the country.

Quoting from the report: "U. S. Steel has always endeavored to anticipate the nation's needs for steel, whether in war or peace, and since 1929 has spent or authorized for expenditure about $1,050 million of its own funds for additions, improvements and replacements. From 1930 to 1939, inclusive, it so spent about $600 million of this sum and since 1939 it has authorized the expenditure of $450 million for further facilities and for the conversion of existing facilities to wartime uses. In order to produce the types, quality and volume of products required for the war effort and for the home fronts, U. S. Steel in 1943 constructed or rebuilt various coke ovens, blast furnaces, open hearth and electric furnaces, and made many changes in finishing equipment, including the installation of new wire mills and of additional electrolytic tinning lines designed to conserve tin. Certain of these changes and additions necessitated the expansion of raw material facilities. The expenditures by the subsidiaries in 1943 for additions to and betterments of properties were: Raw material, $16,427,122; manufacturing, $49,156,888; transportation, $22,803,928; miscellaneous, $564,398; total, $88,952,336.

"Since the beginning of the emergency, $500 million of Government funds has been authorized to be expended by U. S. Steel on behalf of the Government."

The total number of employes of the corporation in 1943 averaged 340,498, the highest on record. Among them were 31,500 women. Nearly 100,000 employees are now serving in the armed forces. Average weekly pay of all wage earners of the corporation during 1943 was $48.94, with weekly hours of work averaging 42.2. Eliminating the effect of employee turnover, the average weekly pay of wage earners in the steel-producing subsidiaries in the last quarter of 1943 was $51.42, and the average work week was 44.6 hours.

In discussing employment and labor matters, the report states: "U. S. Steel's production performance during 1943 was made possible by effective cooperation on the part of its employees. A fine record of wartime production, of which both management and workers may properly be pround, was marred by the action of small groups in bringing about a series of strikes and work stoppages during the year at various U. S. Steel properties."

In 1943, income of United States Steel Corp. and subsidiaries amounted to $63,448,546, a decrease of $7,800,023 from the $71,248,569 income of 1942. As in 1942, there were declared out of the income for the year four dividends of $1.75 per share each, totalling $25,219,677, on the preferred stock, and four dividends of $1 per share each, totalling $34,813,008, on the common stock. After declaration of dividends, $3,415,861 was carried forward for future needs, compared with $11,215,884 in 1942 and $56,138,390 in 1941.

In 1943, total direct tax provisions, excluding Social Security taxes, were $129,566,379, a decrease of $71,758,778 from the $201,325,157 of 1942. This decrease was occasioned primarily by increased labor and other costs. The provision in the year 1943 for Federal taxes on income included $65,500,000 for normal and surtax and $22,500,000 for excess profits taxes, after deducting post-war excess profits credit of $2,500,000 resulting from debt retirement. Tax equivalents in 1943 were: $380 per employee; $6 per ton of finished steel shipped.

For the 43 years of U. S. Steel's history, average income was 5.06% of the amount of the net assets, the latter being the total assets less current liabilities. Income in 1943, plus interest and other costs on long-term debt, was 3.97% of the amount of U. S. Steel's net assets. The percentage for 1943 was thus one-fifth less than the long-term average, even though operations were at near capacity.

In last year's report it was noted that U. S. Steel in 1942 received from customers the largest sum of money in any year of its history and earned for its owners the smallest sum per dollar of sales in any year of large production. Receipts from customers in 1943 were greater than in 1942 by $114 million but income was $7.8 million less. Thus the downward trend in income was intensified and 1943 became the record year for low income in a period of high production and sales.

Net current assets of United States Steel Corp. and its subsidiaries at December 31, 1943, after deducting current dividend declarations, were $519,342,100, compared with $515,068,497 at December 31, 1942.

The amount of net current assets at December 31, 1943, was after setting aside $75 million to segregate in cash the $25 million included in costs during each of the past three years for additional costs applicable to the period caused by war. Such costs include deferred maintenance and repairs, reconverting and relocating facilities from wartime to peacetime use, costs arising out of re-employment of returning service men and retraining them to new skills, losses on raw materials and supplies not needed in the post-war period, and other similar costs. This entire amount has been invested in U. S. Government securities of the Fourth War Loan issue. During 1943 there was charged to this reserve, for replacement of depleted inventories, an amount of $1.1 million representing war costs applicable to and provided for in prior years.

There was relatively little change during 1943 in the long-term obligations of the corporation. A total of approximately $15,000,000 indebtedness was redeemed during the year, leaving the total outstanding at December 31, 1943, $137,000,000.

In conclusion, Mr. Olds states: "The full resources of U. S. Steel are pledged and again dedicated to the fulfilment of its part in the war task still ahead, to the end that victory over our enemies shall be complete and the eventual peace long lasting."

New York Metropolitan Area Production At Peak Despite Loss Of 1,000,000 Men To Services

The New York region has performed an apparent production miracle in reaching an all time high level in manufacturing employment of 1,860,000, notwithstanding the withdrawal of over 1,000,000 men into the armed forces, according to the Regional Plan Association in a statement based on the fifth section of its report on the region's economic resources. The Association recently completed study of the business and industrial trends and prospects of the New York metropolitan area, comprising the 22 counties of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, surrounding the Port of New York. The study was prepared under the general direction of Frederick P. Clark, Executive Director, by Homer Hoyt, director of economic studies.

The seeming paradox of how employment in the war industries and Federal civilian employment in the region could be expanded by 775,000 persons at the same time that a million men were withdrawn from the labor pool of the region into the Army and Navy, is explained in the Association's latest report.

The total draft of 1,775,000 imposed by the war upon the manpower of the region was obtained by taking 860,000 from the unemployed labor force, thereby reducing unemployment from 955,000 in 1940 to less than 100,000 today; by attracting approximately 300,000 women, older men and boys into industries, who were not previously gainfully occupied; by taking 200,000 from the manufacture of civilian goods; and by withdrawing about 415,000 persons from the professions and service lines, from construction activities, utilities and retail trades. The Association emphasized, however, that these figures were approximations based on the best available evidence, and were to be regarded as indicators of broad economic trends rather than as exact measurements of the changes that have occurred.

The number of persons engaged in manufacturing in the area today, the Association says, is about 1,860,000, which far exceeds the factory employment figure for metropolitan New York at any previous time, and is 72% higher than the region's industrial employment in 1939.

An interesting and encouraging aspect of the figures arises from the fact that the New York area's huge upswing in industrial employment represents a relatively small loss in connection with the manufacture of civilian goods.

Many war boom communities are worrying now because their activity is so largely concentrated in war goods, the manufacture of which presumably will stop almost completely the moment the war ends. In some instances this is because of the introduction of new war plants which, as employers, completely overshadow the normal civilian industries of the communities. In others, of which Detroit is a foremost example, war work has taken over civilian plants and converted them so completely that there must be a troublesome period of reconversion.

New York has approximately 700,000 men and women engaged in war industry. But the region also has about 1,160,000 men and women still manufacturing civilian goods which is only 200,000 less than the pre-war number. And while details cannot be cited, many of the persons allocated to war industries actually are making goods which civilians are anxious to buy, so that the end of the war will not require the extent of reconversion or the finding of new products for manufacture which will be necessary in some areas.

These figures on the war-time employment economy of the New York region, taken together with those on the normal economy which have been cited by the Regional Plan Association in previous reports, combine to state and measure the postwar re-employment problem which was the Association's reason for making these studies.

The studies show that with the return of those now in the armed forces, the New York region will have a maximum of 6,000,000 men and women who will need or want jobs.

This figure is obtained by adding 300,000 to the region's labor force of 5,700,000 in 1940 to account for the number of boys and girls reaching working age for the first time in excess of shrinkages in the labor force due to deaths and retirements. This total labor force of 6,000,000 in the New York region after the war includes those returning from the armed forces who were withdrawn from this area but does not allow for future migrations of civilian workers normally residing in other parts of the nation to this region. This figure also assumes that most of the women who entered industry for the first time during the national emergency will return to household duties. In setting up a program designed to provide jobs for 6,000,000 persons after the war, the New York metropolitan region would be merely seeking to take care of its own pre-war residents and their children who have become of age since the beginning of the war.

While the normal labor force of the New York region will consist of 6,000,000 persons after the war, it will not be necessary to find this many civilian jobs to insure the sound economic prosperity of the region. It is estimated that about 200,000 men from the region may be in our enlarged postwar military and naval forces. Allowing also for a normal unemployment of about 200,000 persons consisting of the least efficient workers and of persons shifting from one job to another, would leave 5,600,000 persons for whom jobs must be provided if the metropolitan region is to achieve the goal of reasonably full employment.

"This presents the best available picture of the labor force for which jobs must be found, and of the diversified employment structure which must provide these jobs," said Frederick P. Clark, executive director of the Regional Plan Association, said on Mar. 20.

"The question is: How can the New York metropolitan region hope to put every employable resident to work?

"Nobody can give a final, unarguable answer. But the Regional Plan Association will offer in a few days some considered suggestions as to the employment goals which must be substantially met, if we are to avoid mass unemployment after the war."

Farmers Warned Labor Will Try To Compel Them To Join Unions

P. C. Turner, President of the Inter-State Farmers' Council, speaking at the 9th annual meeting of the Northeastern Dairy Conference at the Hotel Commodore in New York City, on March 15, warned that the days were coming when labor leaders will tell farmers "join our union or we will not handle your product." The New York "Sun" of March 15, from which we quote further, indicated Mr. Turner's remarks as follows:

"The United Mine Workers Union, headed by John L. Lewis, is making little headway in organizing farm labor, Mr. Turner said, but is setting up skeleton groups throughout the nation "to cash in during the expected post-war depression when farmers will be so desperate they will join anything."

"Please note that gradually, like the growth of a cancer, organized labor is getting control of all the labor in transportation processing and distribution of all foodstuffs," he said.

At the same meeting Herbert W. Voorhees, President of the Free Farmers, warned that the struggle with the Lewis union was not finished, and asserted that another labor group was becoming interested in the agricultural field also. He did not identify the group.

Canada Proposes Industrial Development Bank As Subsidiary Of Bank Of Canada

Plans are under way for the setting up of a new institution, viz., the Industrial Development Bank as a subsidiary of the Bank of Canada, with total resources of $100,000,000, it was announced at Ottawa on March 2 by Douglas Abbott, Parliamentary Assistant to Finance Minister J. L. Ilsley. Canadian Press advices from Ottawa on that date stated:

Speaking on second reading of the bill to establish the bank, aimed at aiding small industry in the post-war period, Mr. Abbott said the bank will have a board of 15 directors, comprising members of the board of directors and the Assistant Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada, with the Governor of the Bank of Canada as President.

"The capital stock of the bank is to be $25,000,000, all to be subscribed by the Bank of Canada, with $10,000,000 or more to be paid up at the time this act comes into effect," he said.

"In addition the bank will be empowered to borrow up to three times the amount of its paid-up capital stock and reserve fund, by the issue of bonds and debentures, thus providing the bank with total resources of $100,000,000.

"I would draw the attention of members to the fact that bonds and debentures issued by the bank will not be guaranteed by the Government of Canada. They will, however, be made eligible investment for the Bank of Canada and, in view of the protection afforded by the substantial proportion of capital stock, it is anticipated that they will be marketable elsewhere as well."

The "Financial Post" of Toronto, in its issue of March 11 in an item surveying the pros and cons of the proposed bank, had the following to say in part:

"What business men heard last week in the second reading of the bill to establish Canada's new industrial bank reminded many of them that the man who is to head it, Graham F. Towers, has already stated his opinion on how such an institution should be operated.

"Last year, at the Canadian Manufacturers' Association meeting, Mr. Towers stated in effect that the Government must take over 'residual' responsibilities for preserving a high level of business activity. Designed to provide credit where no other agency is doing the job and to a type of enterprise which is thought not to be looked after under the present scheme of things, the industrial bank is the first one of these residual agencies to be proposed.

"Features of the Industrial Development Bank, as explained in the preamble to the incorporating bill (No. 7) and by Douglas C. Abbott, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, are that it:

"(1) Is only one part of the Government's program to facilitate a high level of employment after the war.

"(2) It is designed to supplement the activities of other money lenders and provide capital assistance to industry with particular consideration to the financing of small enterprises.

"(3) It is intended to supply credit for industrial enterprises only, not for mining, agricultural or housing activities.

"In financial circles interviewed by 'The Financial Post,' the Industrial Development Bank itself, as proposed, was seen as probably filling a gap in the Canadian credit organization whereby credit would be made available to enterprises which, while desirable, have not sufficient standing to obtain credit in the ordinary way, from established credit agencies, such as the chartered banks, or by means of an issue of securities through an investment dealer.

"There is, however, some uneasiness among men interviewed on these points:

"(1) It extends the operations of the Government into the field of business.

"(2) It may mean heavy losses which the public will ultimately have to pay. A banker stated to 'The Financial Post' that the new bank was evidently designed to lend money to a great many borderline businesses which in some cases might go bad. Ordinarily when a loan becomes shaky there are only two alternatives: to close it out in the belief that the first loss is the smallest, or to put more money into it in the hope it would pull through. Eventually the Industrial Development Bank will be faced with some of these cases.

"The powers of the bank laid down in section 15 of the incorporating bill specifically indicate that its activities are confined to industrial enterprises only. Industrial enterprise is defined in the act as 'a business in which the manufacture, processing, or refrigeration of goods, wares and merchandise or the building of ships or vessels or the generating or distributing of electricity is carried on.'

Make Loans

"The bank can lend money to any person engaged in or about to engage in an industrial enterprise in Canada, or to a duly authorized receiver, manager, liquidator, custodian, etc., of an industrial enterprise; can underwrite an issue of securities of a corporation engaged in or about to engage in an industrial enterprise and can acquire for resale from any corporation or any persons with whom the corporation has entered into an underwriting agreement, securities of such corporation.

"It is given practically the same rights as the chartered banks in regard to warehouse receipts and the same rights as are given the chartered banks under Section 88 of the Bank Act, which, however, does not apply in itself to the Industrial Development Bank, it is stated.

"An important difference, however, is that the Industrial Development Bank is empowered to acquire and hold real estate and to lend money on mortgage to a greater extent than the chartered banks are allowed to do."

Perpetual Cooperation With U. S. Pledged By New Zealand

A policy of perpetual cooperation with the United States was enunciated by Prime Minister Peter Fraser in an interview published in the Government newspaper, "The Standard," on March 15, it was indicated in a cablegram from Wellington, New Zealand, to the New York "Times," which also had the following to say:

"It was the earnest hope of the New Zealand Government—and, he was sure, of Australia's also—Mr. Fraser said that arrangements could be made with Washington insuring the greatest possible cooperation, not only for the remainder of the war and in the post-war period, but permanently.

"Not only does New Zealand recognize the important part which the United States must play in the Pacific's future but it is anxious to cooperate to the fullest extent in helping to carry out this role," he said.

"New Zealanders were also anxious that Britain, France, the Netherlands and Portugal should maintain their Pacific positions and that ultimately other countries around the Pacific Ocean's borders should cooperate. In this direction, Mr. Fraser said, lay the surest hope of peace in the Pacific."

436 Banks Report War Loans & Commitments

More than $8,400,000,000 of war production loans and commitments by 436 of the nation's larger banks were outstanding on Dec. 31, 1943, according to the semi-annual report of war lending activity prepared by the American Bankers Association, made available March 14. The survey shows that bank loans and commitments for financing the manufacture of armaments and war supplies increased $1,511,260,000 during the last half of 1943. It is further announced:

"Of the $8,425,878,000 of total war loans and commitments by the banks outstanding at the end of the year, $678,891,000 were for construction of war plants and factories, and $7,746,986,000 were for the purchase of raw materials and other production expenses.

"The total of $678,891,000 for war plant construction represents a slight decline below the amount outstanding at the end of the first half of 1943, but the $7,746,986,000 of loans and commitments for production of war supplies and equipment is an increase of $1,508,985,000 over the amount of these loans outstanding on June 30, 1943.

"The decrease in plant construction loans, coupled with the large increase in loans for production of war supplies and equipment, reflects the fact that need for the construction of new plants and factories has long since passed its peak and that a sharply increased of war material and supplies is now rolling from the factories financed by loans from the banks."

Stettinius To Head Group To Confer With London Officials

Under Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr., who has been assigned to undertake a mission to London in behalf of the State Department, was the guest of President Roosevelt on March 17, along with Secretary Hull. Indicating that no agreements were to be reached by the group headed by Mr. Stettinius, Mr. Hull gave out a statement on March 17, saying:

"At my request the Under-Secretary of State will go to London soon with a small group for discussions with members of the British Government. Foreign Secretary [Anthony] Eden and other high officials of the British Government have made several trips to this country for a general exchange of views during the past two years and it has not been possible for me to return them. Mr. Stettinius is going to London to repay these visits. The talks which he and those who are accompanying him will have will be entirely informal and exploratory. The conversations will cover any current matters that are of interest to the two Governments at this time. However, the purpose of the visit is not to negotiate or conclude agreements."

According to Washington advices to the New York "Times" March 17 those going to London with Mr. Stettinius are Dr. Isaiah Bowman, President of Johns Hopkins University and noted geographer who was Chief Territorial Specialist of the American Mission to Negotiate the Peace in 1918-19; John L. Pratt, a commercial and economic adviser; H. Freeman Matthews, chief of the State Department's European Division; Wallace Murray, expert on Africa and the Middle East, and Robert J. Lynch, personal Secretary to Mr. Stettinius and Executive Secretary of the mission.

Lend-Lease Aid Estimated Almost $20 Billion; Britain Repays $2 Billion In Reverse Process

Lend-lease aid by the United States to the Allies totaled $19,986,000,000 up to the close of 1943, according to the quarterly report of Leo T. Crowley, Foreign Economic Administrator on the operations of Lend-Lease on the third anniversary of the program on March 11. In his report, submitted to Congress, Mr. Crowley indicated that through a reverse process, the United States has received something over $2,000,000,000 in varied items from bananas to airfields.

Regarding the information contained in the report, Associated Press advices from Washington March 11 said:

Tabulations were complete up to the end of last year. They showed total Lend-Lease aid of $19,986,000,000 and a monthly average now over $1,000,000,000. The next report is expected to show a total of about $23,000,000,000 for a full three years' operations. For 1943 alone it was nearly $12,000,000,000, against $7,000,000,000 in 1942 and $1,244,000,000 in 1941.

Planes, tanks, guns, ships and other munitions accounted for nearly $11,000,000,000 of the $19,986,000,000, industrial materials for $4,000,000,000, and farm products and such services as ship repairing and ferrying of aircraft for $2,500,000,000 each.

Many services were performed in this country and some of the goods turned over to Allies had not gone overseas, so that lend-lease reports at the end of 1943 added up to $15,578,000,000.

The United Kingdom got about 42% and Russia 27%.

Reverse lend-lease came primarily from the British Commonwealth of Nations, but Mr. Crowley noted that Russia and China need all they can produce, plus what we have been able to send them to fight invaders on their own soil.

The report did not reveal how much Lend-Lease help actually had reached China, although it asserted that in December alone twice as much cargo was flown into China as in all of 1942. The volume of air freight over the Himalayas is a military secret.

But Lend-Lease supplies transferred to China includes $146,545,000 of munitions, $28,952,000 of industrial items and $79,000 of farm products. Services, figured at $25,419,000, raised the total aid to $200,995,000 as of Jan. 1. In addition goods valued at $191,731,000 have been consigned to American forces in the India-China theater for transfer to China.

Lend-lease exports to India were calculated at $849,000,000, of which $554,000,000 was in munitions and $250,000,000 in industrial products.

The same advices stated that Mr. Crowley estimated that, on the basis of the proportion of gross national production devoted to defeating common enemies, this country and her principal allies share financial burdens of the war about equally.

He is quoted as saying in his report:

"In effect, a pool of resources has been created into which contributions are placed and from which withdrawals are made as the demands of the many fighting fronts dictate.

"Each of our major fighting partners is contributing fully from its resources to the defeat of the Axis Powers, though the contributions of each differ with the circumstances of war and the resources that are available."

From the Associated Press Mar. 11 advices we also note:

Under Secretary of State Stettinius described the Lend-Lease as a vital expression of the most important principle in international relations — the principle that free nations must stand together to preserve their freedom.

"In the great arsenal of fighting power which the United Nations have created to destroy the forces of Axis tyranny, lend-lease and reverse lend-lease are major weapons," he said.

"The only way the Axis Powers can now escape total defeat is by dividing the strength of the United Nations. I am confident that our enemies will fail in this last desperate defense. We have learned the bitter lesson of disunity. We shall not turn our backs on the principles of mutual aid and mutual trust which are today bringing us victory."

Except for more up-to-date figures and a more complete breakdown on help given China and India, the report followed the pattern of thirteen others which had preceded it.

Under date of Feb. 16 the House of Representatives was advised that the British have paid back $100,000,000 of $390,000,000 borrowed from the United States to pay for war supplies contracted for in this country prior to lend-lease. This is learned from the Associated Press, which further reported:

A Reconstruction Finance Corporation spokesman, Henry A. Mulligan, Treasurer, gave the details to a House appropriations committee during hearings on the 1945 Commerce Appropriations Bill.

The British, as security for the loan, Mr. Mulligan said, pledged American securities, some listed on the stock exchange and certain others that are not listed, together with the capital stock of 41 American insurance companies, owned by British nationals, and in addition the earnings of the United States branch of 41 British insurance companies in this country. Those securities, Mr. Mulligan said, have produced about $36,000,000 a year with which to service the loan, adding "we have now received about $100,000,000 in collections."

The loan is a 15-year, 3% loan, with the privilege of a five-year extension if two-thirds of the principal has been repaid at the end of the 15 years.

"Did they expend all of that money in this country?" Representative Stefan, (R.-Neb.), inquired, with reference to the original $390,000,000 loan.

"It is my understanding that they did," said Mr. Mulligan.

Reading Completes 40 Yrs. With N. Y. Cotton Exch.

Lewis F. Reading, Assistant Secretary of the New York Cotton Exchange, celebrated his 40th year as an employee of the Exchange on March 21. He was received on the floor by Eric Alliot, President of the Exchange, along with other officers and members and congratulated on his long and excellent record of service. The announcement from the Exchange says:

"Mr. Reading was originally employed as a ring boy way back in 1904, when many members wore frock coats, high silk hats and the ever-present beards. During his 40 years with the Exchange Mr. Reading served under 25 different Presidents and held down nearly every job on the trading floor at some time or other, worked his way through the Exchange's Statistical Department, and was elected Assistant Secretary in 1929. He has seen World War II take away all the page boys on the trading floor and replace them by girls. In the old days it was somewhat of a novelty to see women on the trading floor."

Truman Report Says Government Planning In Post-War Years Should Be Relaxed

The third annual report of the Senate's Truman committee to investigate the national defense program, issued on March 5 makes certain recommendations for transition to peace time production and for post-war business, and according to a special dispatch, on March 8, from Washington, to the New York "World-Telegram" the principal strains of the report are:

Lay off any over-all government planning, with complex rules and regulations on postwar business.

Limit government controls over resumption of civilian goods manufacture to a few score mechanically complicated items such as automobiles and washing machines.

Leave manufacturers free to exercise their ingenuity in resuming production of any items they choose from surplus materials not needed for war.

"Experience has taught us that our country will flourish best when least hampered by government controls," says the report. "Any attempt at close control over the production of hundreds of thousands of items which might be made from surplus materials would do more harm than good."

Having kept a critical eye on the war production record since March, 1941, this Truman committee is in the best possible position to sum up accomplishments and point to problems immediately ahead. It would be impossible to boil this 200-page report down to something you can read over one cup of coffee, but hitting the high spots of its recommendations, you underscore these:

Manpower—Still the most serious problem, but unless the armed services require more men than now contemplated national economy will be able to support war and civilian production with increased vigor.

National Service Law—Opposed as impractical and unnecessary.

Labor Force—Contributed 45% more man-days work in 1943 than in 1939, for all industries, 89% more in manufacturing alone.

War Production—the major battles have been won, and people should be told of this fact as it will create confidence and not create overconfidence as feared. The "pipe line of war supply" has now been filled and will continue to flow.

Contract Terminations—As of Jan. 31, army, $10,600,000,000; navy, $2,349,000,000. WPB estimate of terminations for 1944, $1,500,000,000 per month to June 30.

Raw materials—Supply of aluminum, copper and steel exceeds both war and civilian requirements.

Reconversion to Civilian Production—Now beginning and should be permitted at highest possible levels to maintain sound civilian economy.

Quota Distribution of Materials—Necessary at first for essential civilian production, but if extended, would work unfairly. Judgment of bureaucrats should not be substituted for economic trends.

Unfilled War Orders—Total on Dec. 1, 1943, $67,000,000,000, which must continue to receive first preference. Rate of delivery now $5,500,000,000 per month, indicating 12 months' work in sight with more coming.

Recommendations—(1) Do not prevent use of surplus commodities and thereby create unemployment.

(2) Do not create a new series of unworkable industrial controls.

(3) Do not establish pattern of regimentation for initial peacetime production, for such regimentation will have a tendency to become permanent.

Conclusion—"At all times the emphasis should be on increasing production of consumer goods and eliminating government restrictions."

Tax Exempt Organizations Must File Information Returns On May 15

Joseph D. Noonan, Jr., Commissioner of Internal Revenue, announced on March 16 that May 15 will be the date by which information returns for the calendar year 1943 will have to be filed by a large number of tax exempt organizations under provisions of Section 117 of the newly enacted Revenue Act of 1943. The announcement points out that exempt organizations which operate on some annual accounting period which is different from the calendar year must file these information returns by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of their annual accounting periods. Forms providing for the information to be supplied by these organizations are being drafted in accordance with the new law, and will be made available at local offices of the Collectors of Internal Revenue.

Commissioner Nunan explained that thousands of these exempt organizations have been required to file information returns ever since March 5, 1942, and that, in effect, the new law merely increases the classes of exempt organizations which are required to make returns. For this reason, the filing dates already in effect for some of the organizations will also apply to the additional organizations. The announcement from the Commissioner's office further said:

"He emphasized that the May 15 filing date applies only to organizations which at some time in the past have received written notice from the Commissioner of Internal Revenupe that they are exempt from income tax under a specific provision of law. All other corporations and organizations claiming exemption must either file regular income tax returns on the usual income tax dates or formally establish their legal right to exemption by obtaining written notification of exemption from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

"Approximately 280,000 organizations have received formal notice of exemption from the Bureau. Although they are exempted from tax, the new law requires an estimated 180,000 of these organizations to furnish specific information of their gross income, receipts and disbursements. This information is to be supplied by filling out an 'information return.'

"The law requires such information returns to be filed annually by every exempt organization unless it is specifically excused from filing under the new act. Those excused from filing information returns are, in general: religious organizations whose assets and income are not available for the private benefit of shareholders or individuals, particularly churches; educational organizations which normally have a regular faculty, curriculum and student body, such as schools and colleges; charitable organizations if primarily supported by contributions of the general public or supported in whole or part by governmental funds, such as community chests, hospitals, indigent homes and USO; fraternal beneficiary societies such as the Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Columbus; and agencies wholly-owned by the United States Government.

"All other exempt organizations must file information returns under the new law, such as: agricultural organizations (including county and State fairs, farm bureaus, cooperative marketing and purchasing organizations), associations of employees, benevolent life insurance organizations, boards of trade, building and loan associations, business leagues, cemetery companies, chambers of commerce, civic leagues, cooperative banks, certain financing and holding companies, Federal credit unions and other corporations organized under acts of Congress but not wholly-owned by the United States, labor organizations, literary organizations, mutual insurance companies, mutual savings banks, mutual telephone companies, social clubs (including country clubs and Greek letter fraternities and sororities), certain types of teachers' retirement and employees' beneficiary associations. Also required to file are certain religious, charitable, and educational organizations such as Boy Scouts, libraries and Y.W.C.A."

NYSE Short Interest Higher On Feb. 29

The New York Stock Exchange announced on March 10 that the short interest existing as of the close of business on the February 29 settlement date, as compiled from information obtained by the Exchange from its members and member firms, was 960,617 shares, compared with 847,336 shares on January 31, both totals excluding short positions carried in the odd-lot accounts of all odd-lot dealers. As of the February 29 settlement date, the total short interest in all odd-lot dealers' accounts was 34,322 shares, compared with 38,139 shares on January 31.

The announcement of the Exchange added:

Of the 1,240 individual stock issues listed on the Exchange on February 29, there were 48 issues in which a short interest of more than 5,000 shares existed, or in which a change in the short position of more than 2,000 shares occurred during the month.

In the following tabulation is shown the short interest existing at the close of the last business day for the last 12 months:

1943—	Shares
Mar. 31	774,871
April 30	882,376
May 28	980,047
June 30	879,575
July 30	836,764
Aug. 31	801,321
Sept. 30	761,827
Oct. 29	729,291
Nov. 30	760,166
Dec. 31	737,042
1944—	
Jan. 31	847,335
Feb. 29	960,617

Life Underwriters Receive Citations

Nevil Ford, Chairman of the War Finance Committee for New York, awarded Treasury citations on March 17, at a luncheon at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York, to the team captains and group commanders of the volunteer organization of 225 life insurance underwriters, headed by John M. Fraser, who were responsible for adding many millions of dollars of the war bond sales to the payroll savings totals during the Fourth War Loan. Mr. Fraser's group has been active since the inception of the War Finance Committee's payroll savings plan. During the Fourth War Loan it concentrated its efforts on business organizations with 100 or more payroll employees. Mr. Fraser is President of the Fraser Agency of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co.

25 Republican Members Of House Named To Develop Post-War Tax Program

The formation of a committee on Post War taxation of 25 Republican members of the House of Representatives by minority leader Joseph W. Martin Jr. (of Mass.) was made known on March 12, Representative Daniel A. Reed of New York is Chairman of the group, the purpose of which is to make "a thorough research of the tax field" and chart "a constructive and desirable" post-war revenue program for further study.

This was indicated in Washington advices to the New York "Times" March 12, which also reported Representative Martin's remarks as follows regarding the objectives of the Committee:

Calling the present system "hopelessly impossible" as a basis for a post-war tax program Mr. Martin said that "streamlining, simplification and forward-looking revision of the entire Federal revenue system is one of our most pressing national problems."

"A sound and prosperous post-war national economy depends upon a wise tax policy," he said. "This policy must be carefully considered and Congress must be prepared to have it go into effect immediately with the advent of peace, which will in all probability come during the life of the Congress that will be selected next November.

"Since 1933 new tax measures have been piled one on top of the other without attempting to set up a well-balanced, integrated tax system.

"What we have is a crazy-quilt patchwork. Morever, in recent years the taxing power has, too often, been used for punitive and other non-revenue purposes."

Upon the satisfactory revision of the national revenue system, he argued, depended the ability of business and industry to provide returning service men and millions of war workers with "well-paying post-war jobs."

"In the same manner, the nature of our post-war tax policy holds the key to whether the many potential new industries arising out of the war are to be permitted to develop, which can only come about through offering definite encouragement to the investment of so-called risk capital.

"Moreover, if America is to continue to be the land of opportunity, every individual—the farmer, the workingman, the small business man, in fact, all our citizens—must be permitted to retain some of the fruits of their labor."

As a post-war Federal budget may exceed $20,000,000,000, Mr. Martin said, post-war taxes should proceed on the principle of "maximum revenues consistent with maximum encouragement to individual and business enterprise."

"Excessive taxes operate as a brake on our economy," he asserted. "We learned during the 20's, following the last World War, that reasonable rates will produce more revenue than extreme rates. We can profit by this experience."

The same advices state that those serving on the Committee with Chairman Reed are: Allen T. Treadway and Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts, Charles S. Dewey and Noah M. Mason of Illinois, Donald H. McLean and Robert W. Kean of New Jersey, Harold Knutson of Minnesota, Roy O. Woodruff of Michigan, Thomas A. Jenkins of Ohio, Bertrand W. Gearhart of California, Frank Carlson of Kansas, Richard M. Simpson of Pennsylvania, Hubert S. Ellis of West Virginia, John M. Robsion of Kentucky, Robert Hale of Maine, Paul Cunningham of Iowa, Forest A. Harness of Indiana, Ross Rizley of Oklahoma, Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska, J. Edgar Chenoweth of Colorado, Hal Holmes of Washington, Max Schwabe of Missouri, Frank A. Barret of Wyoming and Joseph W. Talbot of Connecticut.

In Associated Press accounts from Washington March 13 it was stated that "the minority party took the initiative on formal post-war tax studies following a suggestion by Bernard M. Baruch, in his recent report to the President, that Congress enact new revenue laws to be put into effect at the close of the war." It was added that "some Congressional leaders on fiscal matters took the view that post-war tax policy cannot be drawn at this time, because of uncertainties as to the future over-all economy."

Earnings, Employment, Payrolls Show No New Peaks In January In Mfg. Industries

In January, for the first time since July, 1940, there were no new peaks in the National Industrial Conference Board indexes of hourly and weekly earnings, hours worked per week, employment, total man hours worked, and payrolls in 25 manufacturing industries, according to an announcement by the Board on March 20. The Board, in its announcement, also says:

"Hourly earnings at $1.045 equaled the figure for December and compared with $.979 in January, 1943. They were 37.7% higher than in January, 1941, the base date of the Little Steel Formula. At $47.42 in January, average weekly earnings were above the $47.15 (revised) figure for December, but below both October and November. In January, 1943, they were $43.56. The increase since January, 1941, was 54.9%.

"'Real' weekly earnings, or dollar earnings adjusted for changes in living costs, in January at 171.5 (1923 equals 100) were higher than the 170.5 (revised) for December, but below September, October and November. In January, 1943, the figure was 161.4. During the three year period from January, 1941, to January, 1944, 'real' weekly earnings rose 28.3%.

"The length of the average work week in January was 45.2 hours against 45.1 in December. In both October and November, however, the average week was 45.5 hours. In January, 1943, it was 44.3 hours.

"The man hours index (1923 equals 100) was 136.2 in January against 137.2 in December and 131.7 in January, 1943. The payroll index, also on a 1923 base, stood at 264.1 in January against 265.1 in December, and 239.5 in January, 1943."

Douglas Resigns

It was made known on March 10 that Lewis W. Douglas has resigned as Deputy War Shipping Administrator to return to the Presidency of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. The announcement was made by President Roosevelt, who stated that Mr. Douglas would continue as Deputy of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board and as Chairman of its Employment and Policy Committee. Probably, it is said, however, he will relinquish these posts by mid-year.

Roosevelt And Hull Charge Germany With Responsibility For Attack On Rome

Pope Appeals That City Be Spared From Becoming Battlefield

Responsibility for the dangers to Rome suffered in the recent air attacks, is placed by President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull on the German military forces. In reply to the appeal on March 12 of Pope Pius XII to all the belligerents that Rome be spared from becoming a battlefield, Secretary Hull promised that the Allied military authorities would seek to avoid as much as possible damaging religious shrines in Rome, but, said Washington advices March 13 to the New York "Times," no assurance was given that Rome would not become a battlefield. From the "Times" account we quote:

"Mr. Hull emphasized our interest in the preservation of religious shrines and historic structures. At the same time he stressed the importance of human lives, including those of innocent civilians and refugees.

"He made his statement in answer to inquiries at his press conference concerning the appeal of Pope Pius as reported in the newspapers.

"'I think we all understand,' Secretary Hull said, 'that the Allied military authorities in Italy are dealing primarily with considerations of military necessity forced on them by the activities and attitude of the German military forces. Naturally we are as much interested as any Government or any individual in the preservation of religious shrines, historic structures and human lives. I am sure that our military people have that same view.

"'It is my understanding that the Allied military authorities are pursuing a policy of avoiding damage to such shrines and monuments to the extent humanly possible in modern warfare and in the circumstances that face them.

"'If the Germans were not entrenched in these places or were they as interested as we are in protecting religious shrines and monuments and in preserving the lives of innocent civilians and refugees no question would arise.'

"The statement was made with special care, in full realization of the seriousness of the question. It is understood that before making it Mr. Hull had carefully consulted our military authorities. His words were regarded as embodying their reaction as well as his own to the appeal of Pope Pius."

The President's statement read at his press conference on March 14, follows:

"Every one knows the Nazi record on religion. Both at home and abroad, Hitler and his followers have waged a ruthless war against the churches of all faiths.

"Now the German Army has used the holy city of Rome as a military center. No one could have been surprised by this—it is only the latest of Hitler's many affronts to religion. It is a logical step in the Nazi policy of total war—a policy which treats nothing as sacred.

"We on our side have made freedom of religion one of the principles for which we are fighting this war. We have tried scrupulously — often at considerable sacrifice—to spare religious and cultural monuments, and we shall continue to do so."

From the "Times" Washington advices March 14 we take the following:

"The President did not say that American troops would spare ecclesiastical shrines in every eventuality, but if he still holds to the principle that he laid down during the action against the Abbey of Mount Cassino, the American forces will not attack such landmarks unless the enemy uses them for action endangering the safety of our men.

"Viewed from this standpoint, the President's statement that Rome had been made a 'military center' by the Germans was significant. For, if the enemy continues to use that city as a center for military action, then under the principle of Cassino, such portions as are so used will not be spared by American arms."

In his plea, delivered from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on the fifth anniversary of his coronation, the Pope in part said:

"With towns stricken on nearly every continent by aerial war that knows no law nor restraint—in itself a terrible accusation against the cruelty of such fighting methods—how could we believe that anyone should ever dare to turn Rome, this noble city which belongs to all times and all places, on which the whole civilized world fixes its eyes in trepidation, to turn her into a field of battle and a theatre of war, thereby perpetrating an act as inglorious militarily as it is abominable in the eyes of God and humanity conscious of the highest spiritual and moral values.'"

The most recent bombing of Rome in which attacks were made on the railyards occurred on March 7 and 10. The attack on the Abbey of Mount Cassino occurred in February. Under date of Feb. 17 Associated Press accounts from Washington said:

"The Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, today stated on behalf of the Vatican, that the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, could not be considered a military target.

The delegate issued this statement:

"His Eminence, Cardinal Maglione, Secretary of State of his Holiness, Pope Pius XII, has instructed me to state that the recent report, appearing in the press and credited to the Allied High Command, to the effect that the actual territory of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo is 'saturated with Germans and therefore subject to bombing,' is not true. His Eminence declares that no German soldier has been admitted within the borders of the neutral pontifical villa and that no German military whatsoever are within it at present."

U. S., Britain Exchange Notes On Copyrights

Through an exchange of notes on Mar. 10 between Secretary of State Hull and Viscount Halifax, the British Ambassador, Great Britain and the United States agreed on an extension of time for fulfillment of the conditions and formalities for obtaining copyright during the war. Advices to this effect, contained in Washington advices March 10 to the New York "Times," further stated:

"The British note was accompanied by a list of British territories, in addition to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, to which, together with Palestine, the agreement applies. Also attached was a copy of an Order in Council published in London today according copyright extension privileges to authors and copyright proprietors of the United States.

"The American note was accompanied by a copy of a proclamation by President Roosevelt under the law of Sept. 25, 1941, according equivalent copyright extension privileges to British authors and copyright proprietors in the British territories and to authors and copyright proprietors who are citizens of Palestine.

"The reciprocal action was taken because of the disturbed conditions which temporarily prevent compliance with required conditions and formalities.

"President Roosevelt's proclamation said that as regards works subject to copyright under the laws of the United States, including works eligible to ad interim copyright, which were first produced or published outside the United States on or after Sept. 3, 1939, by British nationals of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the specified British territories and by the citizens of Palestine (excluding the citizens of Transjordan) and works of the same authors or copyright proprietors which were entitled to renewal of copyright on or after Sept. 3, 1939, where there exist such disruption or suspension of facilities essential to compliance with the conditions and formalities prescribed by the copyright laws of the United States as to bring such works within the terms of the act of Sept. 25, 1941, the time within which compliance may take place is extended until the day on which the President of the United States shall terminate the proclamation.

"The term of copyright cannot be altered or affected by the President's action and the extension is subject to the proviso of the act of Sept. 25, 1941, that no liability shall attach to persons having made lawful use of any work to which the proclamation relates prior to the effective date of that proclamation."

U. S.-Canada Economic Committees Dissolved

Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced on March 14 that Canada and the United States had agreed to dissolve the joint economic committees which were established in 1941 to harmonize price controls, regulate priorities and control shipping. Associated Press advices from Ottawa, reporting this, added:

"The Prime Minister said the committees had been of great assistance in co-ordinating wartime measures as well as in surveying and advising on economic problems of common concern.

"Mr. King added that the development of other agencies for the exchange of views on economic problems had rendered unnecessary continuation of the work of the committees.

"Prominent U. S. members of the committees included Dr. Alvin Hansen of Harvard, Robert R. Nathan of the War Production Board and A. A. Berle of the State Department."

Living Costs Down in Feb.

Living costs of the average family of wage earners and lower-salaried clerical workers in the United States declined 0.5% from January to February, according to the National Industrial Conference Board in a report issued on Mar. 14, which further reported:

"Food declined 1.4%, but clothing rose 0.4%, fuel and light 0.9%, and sundries 0.1%.

"The Board's index of the cost of living (1923=100) stood at 103.4 in February, against 103.9 in January and 101.9 in February, 1943.

"The level of living costs was 1.5% higher than that of a year ago. Fuel and light showed the greatest advance over February, 1943, with an increase of 4.0%. Other advances during the twelve months were: sundries, 3.8%, and clothing, 3.4%. Housing remained unchanged, while food declined 0.4%.

"The purchasing power of the dollar, on the basis of 100 cents to the dollar in 1923, which amounted to 96.2 cents in January, rose to 96.7 in February. It stood at 98.1 cents in February, 1943."

Retraining And Re-Employment Administration Created By Roosevelt Following Baruch Report

The creation by President Roosevelt of a Retraining and Re-employment Administration, headed by Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, and charged it with responsibility for getting war workers and veterans into peacetime employment as they are released from war services was announced on Feb. 24, said the Associated Press. Recommendation for the establishment of the New Administration was contained in the Baruch-Hancock Report for post-war readjustment. The Associated Press advices from Washington Feb. 24 had the following to say regarding the creation of the new agency:

"Announcement was made by James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization, several days ago that General Hines would head the new office.

"At the same time the White House released Mr. Roosevelt's order setting up this office, it also released a directive order by Mr. Byrnes stating certain exceptions which might be made in the application of the Government's uniform contract combination clause for fixed price war contracts. The general contract termination procedure is also a part of the Baruch-Hancock program.

Today's order by Mr. Byrnes merely specifies certain types of contracts, involving small sums of money or otherwise relatively unimportant, which do not have to contain the uniform clause.

The President's order on the retraining and re-employment administration provides also for the organization of a retraining and re-employment policy board composed of representatives of virtually all Government agencies concerned either with labor or war manpower.

From Washington advices Feb. 24 to the New York "Herald-Tribune" we take the folloing:

In today's executive order the President defines its functions as follows:

The RRA., will have general supervision and direction of the work of all government agencies directed toward finding jobs for men and women discharged from the armed services or released from war work, and training them for new jobs. It may issue regulations and directions and advise with appropriate committees of Congress.

The RRA. will also develop over-all re-employment programs in consultation with other government agencies, providing for vocational education, assistance to former service men and former war workers while they are waiting for new jobs, and "dealing with the problems connected with the release of workers from industries not readily convertible to peace-time use."

Programs also will be developed for care of ex-service men, including physical and occupational therapy for the wounded and disabled, and the resumption of education interrupted by the war.

The Retraining and Re-employment Administrator will thus make policy decisions affecting the War Man-Power Commission, the Veterans Administration, and other agencies.

The administrator will be assisted by a policy board composed of representatives of the Department of Labor. Federal Security Agency, WMC, Selective Service System, Veterans Administration, Civil Service Commission, War and Navy Departments and the War Production Board. Representatives of other government agencies will be invited to sit with the board when matters affecting them are under consideration.

The Baruch-Hancock report was referred to in our Feb. 24 issue, page 817.

Restudy Of Webb Export Trade Act Urged By Commerce & Industry Assn.

Asserts U. S. Does Not Intend To Coerce Other Countries To Adopt Its Political System

Immediate restudy of the Webb Export Trade Act of 1918 toward bringing it up to date was urged on Congress by the Commerce and Industry Association of New York on March 21 through Association Secretary Thomas Jefferson Miley. In his statement addressed to Congress, Mr. Miley said that "the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice of the U. S., throughout this war and for all the post-war period, is seemingly striving to coerce Great Britain. Soviet Russia, China and all the rest of the world to adopt the competitive system of the United States, with all the refinements added by successive decisions of the Supreme Court under the anti-trust laws." He went on to say:

"Such a program of coercion is being relentlessly carried out now by the Department of Justice in the midst of the greatest war in history. The Department of Justice is instituting every kind of criminal and civil prosecution in its power for the purpose of injecting into foreign and international trade relationships every new requirement of competition that can be spelled out of the Supreme Court's ever-expanding interpretations of the anti-trust laws.

"President Woodrow Wilson in the first World War foresaw the folly of all this. He also saw the folly of subjecting Americans doing business abroad to all the requirements of all the American anti-trust laws as well as all the requirements of all the laws of the foreign countries where they are doing business, while the foreigners against whom they are competing abroad need comply only with the laws of the foreign countries where they are doing business.

"It was to correct this obvious injustice and absurdity that Congress during the first World War enacted at President Wilson's insistence the Webb Export Trade Act of 1918.

"Congress then should today restudy this Webb Export Trade Act and by proper amendments should bring it up to date, so that now in this present second World War and for all the post-war period, there can be achieved all the objectives that President Wilson sought to attain when he procured the enactment of this act in 1918.

"The purpose of requesting this restudy toward bringing the Webb Act up to date is that now as well as in the post-war period every interest in international relations must work together for the common good. The United States, with its democratic, political system and its competitive economic system, does not intend to coerce Great Britain, Soviet Russia, China and the rest of the post-war world to adopt a democratic, political system of the United States."

The proposal by the Commerce and Industry Association was first presented as a resolution by Dr. Fred I. Kent, Chairman of the Association's Committee on Post-War Planning, and approved by the Board of Directors.

Congress Approves Compromise Soldier Vote Bill—FDR Wires Governors Regarding State Laws

The Soldier Vote Bill which has been the subject of many changes since it has been in the hands of conferees of the Senate and House, during the past month, has been finally accepted by Congress in the compromise form drawn by the conferees. The bill as finally worked out provides a State rights service vote bill, allowing the use of a curtailed Federal ballot, only with State permission.

Associated Press advices from Washington March 14, as given in the New York "Sun" had the following to say regarding the Senate action on the Conferees' report on that date.

The Conference report was agreed to by the Senate on March 14 by a vote of 47 to 31, while the House agreed to the report on March 15 by a vote of 273 to 111. The bill, it is stated, reached the White House on March 20. Following the House action on March 15, President Roosevelt on that day telegraphed the Governors of all the States asking whether "the use of the supplemental Federal ballots provided for in the bill would conform to the laws of their States. The telegram addressed to the Governors read as follows:

"The Congress has passed and there will be submitted to me in a day or two for my approval or disapproval the soldiers' voting bill.

"In it are certain provisions which, in order to be effective, require certification by the Governor of a State that the use of the Federal ballots provided for by the bill is authorized by the laws of such State.

"To enable me to form an opinion as to the effectiveness of this measure, I should appreciate it if you could at once advise me by wire:

"(1) Whether the use of supplementary Federal ballots provided for by this bill is, in your judgment, now authorized by the laws of your State, and (2) if the use of these ballots is not authorized by the laws of your State whether, in your judgment, if the bill becomes law, steps will be taken to enable you to certify prior to July 15 that the use of such ballots is authorized by the laws of your State.

"A copy of the bill has been sent to you by air mail.

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

In Associated Press accounts from Washington March 15 it was stated:

"The President has indicated that the decision on a veto depends on whether more men can vote under new legislation than under existing laws.

"The bill provides in brief that service people must make their own applications for State absentee ballots which the services will expedite to them and back to the States, and that the Federal short form shall be available for use only by those who apply for the State ballots but do not get them in time, and whose Governors certify that the Federal form will be acceptable."

In the same advices it was also noted:

"The House completed action on the legislation after six months' wrangling between 'States righters' and sponsors of an Administration uniform Federal ballot plan for servicemen and women.

"Disowned by some of its authors, the compromise swept through the two chambers after both sides agreed it would be this bill or none at all, so far as November's Presidential election is concerned.

"Mr. Roosevelt termed an earlier measure passed by the Senate a "fraud on the soldiers and sailors and Marines, a fraud upon the American people." That bill dumped virtually the whole soldier vote problem on the States, with no Federal ballot provisions whatever."

Special advices to the New York "Times" from Washington March 15 by C. P. Trussell, reporting the House action, said in part:

"The House and Senate showdowns on the soldier vote bill were hailed on one hand as 'a victory for constitutional government' and denounced on the other as a political effort to disfranchise the armed forces.

"The House divided as follows:

"For the Compromise—Democrats, 97, of whom 79 represent districts in Southern States; Republicans, 175; minor party members, 1.

"Against the Compromise—Democrats, 96, of whom 12 represent Southern districts; Republicans, 12; minor party members, 3.

* * *

"Forty-nine Democrats, including 40 from Southern districts who on Feb. 3 supported the Worley (Federal ballot) bill in the 'Stand-up-and-be-counted' contest with the Eastland-Rankin (State ballot only) bill, voted to adopt the compromise.

"Representative Eugene Worley of Texas, head of the House conferees and author of the Federal ballot measure which the House rejected last month by 224 to 168, took the compromise before the House and supported it, although he told his colleagues that he disagreed with other conferees' declaration that it was 'a this or nothing' measure. He said he believed the conferees 'could have done better.'

"Mr. Worley also disagreed with the contention of other Federal ballot advocates that fewer service men would be given an opportunity to vote under the Senate-House compromise than under the Soldier Voting Act of 1942, which sought to suspend the provisions of State election laws that require personal registration and the payment of poll taxes.

* * *

"On the ground that the compromise would restrict rather than broaden the service vote, Senators Theodore F. Green of Rhode Island and Scott W. Lucas of Illinois, authors of the Green-Lucas (Federal ballot) bill, urged that the new legislation be defeated or vetoed and that the old law be applied."

Senators Green (D.-R. I.) and Lucas (D.-Ill.), authors of the original Federal ballot bill, disowned it after the House ripped away most of their handiwork and replaced it with machinery giving the States first say about the form of the ballots and full right to determine the qualifications of absent voters.

Striking back at Democratic criticism of the compromise vote bill, Senator Bridges (R.- N.H.), asserted before the Senate voted that if President Roosevelt vetoes the measure "he alone must assume full responsibility for the disfranchisement of millions of our soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen."

The bill passed easily despite an announcement by the Majority Leader, Senator Barkley of Kentucky, that he would speak and vote against it. Advocates of the State ballot plan appeared firmly in the saddle in the House also.

Senator Bridges contended that the bill would permit every qualified voter in the armed forces to cast a ballot not only for President and members of Congress but for governors and local officers as well.

"Can it be," he asked, "that the proponents of the Federal plan have an ulterior purpose in trying to force through the Congress an unconstitutional method which could and would ultimately be challenged in the courts and perhaps compel the House of Representatives to designate the next President of the United States?

"Can it be that they are so out of touch with the sentiment of the members of the armed forces that they feel our military and naval personnel can be voted like a herd of cattle for the fourth term?

"If the latter is the case then my administration friends are doomed to disillusionment. These boys and girls gladly and proudly wear the nation's uniform but they most assuredly are not going to wear the New Deal's collar!"

The disputed service vote question was sent to a Senate-House conference committee on Feb. 9 for the solution of the Federal-State ballot controversy. This action was taken following the passage on Feb. 8 by the Senate, after weeks of debate, of a bill providing a uniform Federal ballot for service men and women; the House, on Feb. 3 adopted a bill proposing to leave the balloting machinery in the hands of the States.

Representative Rankin, leader of the House battle against a Federal ballot, described the Senate action as "unusual and ridiculous" and declared the House would never accept "a bobtailed Federal ballot."

Recording the action of the House on Feb. 3, Washington advices on that date to the New York "Times" said:

The House of Representatives, accepting President Roosevelt's challenge to "stand up and be counted" on a decision between a Federal or State ballot program for voting by the armed forces in the November elections, voted 224 to 168 by roll-call late tonight to reject finally the Administration-sponsored Worley bill.

By another roll-call of 328 to 69 it adopted the Eastland-Rankin "States' Rights" bill, designed to leave the service balloting to the several States, but with recommendations for State and Federal cooperation to carry to the maximum the opportunity for those under arms, and those working with them overseas, to vote.

In the roll call test on the Worley bill the party line-up showed 147 Democrats, 18 Republicans and 3 members of minor parties supporting the Federal measure and 175 Republicans, 48 Democrats and 1 minor party member against it.

Five hours earlier, in the most tempestuous meeting of the session, the House rejected the Worley bill by a teller (non-record) vote of 215 to 164. Then, continuing into a night session which lasted until nearly 11 p.m., it defeated a proposal for a dual program under which the Federal ballot could be used, with rigid restrictions and a thick sheaf of other plans, amended the Eastland-Rankin bill without altering its "States' Rights" aims, and gave final approval to the bill which the President had branded as "a fraud."

So decisive was the first victory of a smoothly operating coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats over the Worley bill backers that, although the House voted, 233 to 160 Tuesday (Feb. 1) against subjecting itself to a record vote on the issue, Republicans decided that Mr. Roosevelt might have his wish.

Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., the minority leader, telling the House that his party had been at no time afraid to go on the record, permitted Representative John Z. Anderson, Republican, of California, to make the only motion to recommit the legislation permitted under the rule granted the bill by the Rules Committee.

Mr. Anderson, an opponent of the Eastland-Rankin bill, moved that it be sent back to the Committee on Elections with instructions to return it immediately, including the provisions of the Worley bill.

"We were fighting to protect the minority," Mr. Martin said. "We are not afraid to 'stand up and be counted' and are willing to let the motion to recommit be the motion Mr. Worley sought to make."

Mr. Martin asked for the ayes and nays.

The answer that the House gave showed that the psychology of the record vote, by which Administration forces had hoped to turn the House tide against the "States' Rights" program, had failed. When the roll was called the margin that developed against the Administration program on the non-record vote had been increased by five.

With reference to the action of the Senate on Feb. 8, C. P. Trussell in advices to the "Times" from Washington, said in part:

The Senate, in a four-hour burst of action, passed two service men's voting bills today and sent to the House in each a program for use of a Federal ballot by the armed forces, such as the House rejected by 224 to 168 last Thursday night (Feb. 3).

By a vote of 47 to 38 the Senate adopted the Green-Lucas bill upon which it had worked for eight days and so amended as to make it resemble only generally either the original Administration-sponsored program which it cast aside on Dec. 3 in favor of a "States' Rights" measure, or the compromise legislation which took its place last month. This bill was expected to be referred to the House Elections Committee and probably remain there indefinitely.

As its "working measure" the Senate passed the Eastland-Rankin "States' Rights" bill (providing only for the use of State ballots), as it was amended by the House, after putting into it the Green-Lucas bill with its modifications and a new plan for "guaranteeing" voting rights in the services by providing a Federal ballot when requested State ballots failed of delivery.

Proposals for a uniform Federal ballot for men and women in the armed forces were rejected on Jan. 14 by the House Elections Committee, which approved by a 7-to-5 vote a bill leaving the service-ballot question in full control of the States. The legislation approved by a majority of the House Elections group was similar to the measure passed by the Senate on Dec. 3 by a vote of 42 to 37. This legislation, sponsored by Senators Eastland (Dem., Miss.), McClellan (Dem., Ark.), and McKellar (Dem., Tenn.), was substituted for a bill which the Senate had been debating for six days. The original measure, offered by Senators Green (Dem., R. I.) and Lucas (Dem., Ill.), would have set up a Federal War Ballot Commission to administer absentee voting by the armed forces in next year's general election. However, under the substitute bill, Congress merely expressed itself as favoring and recommending that the States enact legislation to enable eligible persons serving with the armed forces to vote by absentee ballot. It was further recommended that, in order to utilize the absentee balloting procedures, each State print and deliver to the Secretaries of War and the Navy an adequate number of postal cards for use by absentee voters in the armed forces in making application for absentee ballots. The Secretaries, wherever "practicable and compatible with military operations," would have the cards delivered as expeditiously as possible in order that the ballots could be executed and returned in time to be recorded. The Secretaries of War and the Navy would also cooperate with State election officials in the distribution, execution, collection and return of such absentee ballots.

Those opposing a Federal ballot bill contended it would violate the Constitution by waiving the control of the States over election laws, while the opponents of the State ballot system say this plan would be too difficult for the Army and Navy to handle for any appreciable number of service members, especially those overseas.

The Senate began consideration on Jan. 24 of a revised soldier vote bill providing for a uniform Federal ballot to be distributed by the services but leaving to the States the power to pass on the qualifications of voters and the validity of each ballot. This compromise measure was approved by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections by a vote of 12 to 2 on Jan. 20.

At a December press conference, President Roosevelt declared that his policy regarding voting is that every service member should be given the opportunity to vote unless actual combat circumstances prevent it. The President also said that he thought Federal machinery is needed to implement the policy he expressed.

New 'Savings' Increase Reported By N.Y. Banks

New savings in the amount of $156,936,237 were accounted for by the savings banks of New York State during the months of January and February, 1944, through an increase in deposits of $89,691,608 and the sale of War Bonds and Stamps of $67,244,629, according to figures released by the Savings Banks Association on March 15. This, it is indicated, was accompanied by a gain in new accounts of 52,363, bringing the total of accounts open to 6,276,767 and total deposits to $6,258,401,589, both record highs. The advices also state:

"The February figures reveal a deposit gain of $36,881,006, and account gain of 19,481 and War Bond sales of $32,374,016. The latter, coupled with January sales of $34,870,613, were due primarily to the Fourth War Loan Drive, 30% better than for the corresponding period in 1943."

More Freight Cars And Locomotives Put In Service

The Class I railroads put 5,174 new freight cars in service in the first two months this year, the Association of American Railroads announced on March 20. These included 2,740 hopper, 474 gondola, 515 flat, 283 automobile box, 1,130 plain box, and 32 refrigerator freight cars. Total placed in service in the first two months of 1943 was 2,996 freight cars.

They also put 180 locomotives in service in January and February this year, of which 75 were steam and one electric and 104 Diesel Locomotives installed in the first two months of 1943 totaled 99, of which 83 were steam and 16 were electric and Diesel.

Class I railroads on March 1, 1944, had 33,012 new freight cars on order, including 11,183 hopper, 4,380 gondolas, 1,000 flat, 11,856 plain box cars, 3,225 automobile box cars, 1,168 refrigerator, and 200 stock freight cars. On Feb. 1, last, they had 33,411 on order and on March 1, 1943, a total of 19,329.

The roads also had 779 locomotives on order on March 1, this year, which included 264 steam and two electric and 513 Diesel locomotives. Total on order on March 1, 1943 was 499, including 352 steam and 147 electric and Diesel.

The ODT reported that railroads, other than Class I, had 51 new locomotives on order on March 1, and that three new locomotives were installed in service in February. None was installed in January. This brings to 830 the total number of locomotives on order on March 1. The number installed by all railroads in the first two months this year totaled 183.

Moody's Bond Prices And Bond Yield Averages

Moody's computed bond prices and bond yield averages are given in the following table:

MOODY'S BOND PRICES†
(Based on Average Yields)

1944— Daily Averages	U. S. Govt. Bonds	Avge. Corporate*	Corporate by Ratings*				Corporate by Groups*		
			Aaa	Aa	A	Baa	R. R.	P. U.	Indus.
Mar. 21	119.85	111.44	118.40	116.61	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.41
20	119.93	111.44	118.40	116.61	111.44	100.81	104.48	113.70	116.41
18	120.13	111.44	118.20	116.41	111.44	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.41
17	120.14	111.44	118.20	116.61	111.25	100.65	104.66	113.70	116.41
16	120.13	111.44	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.81	104.48	113.89	116.41
15	120.10	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.81	104.66	113.89	116.41
14	120.18	111.44	118.20	116.61	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.41
13	120.23	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.22
11	120.26	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.22
10	120.26	111.44	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.81	104.48	113.70	116.41
9	120.26	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.41
8	120.27	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.22
7	120.38	111.44	118.20	116.61	111.25	100.65	104.48	113.70	116.41
6	120.44	111.25	118.20	116.61	111.25	100.49	104.48	113.70	116.41
4	120.43	111.25	118.20	116.61	111.25	100.49	104.31	113.70	116.41
3	120.44	111.25	118.20	116.61	111.25	100.49	104.31	113.70	116.41
2	120.42	111.25	118.20	116.22	111.25	100.49	104.31	113.70	116.22
1	120.32	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.25	100.49	104.31	113.70	116.22
Feb. 25	120.21	111.25	118.20	116.41	111.07	100.32	104.31	113.50	116.22
18	119.96	111.25	118.40	116.41	111.07	100.49	104.31	113.50	116.41
11	119.69	111.25	118.40	116.22	111.25	100.49	104.31	113.50	116.41
4	119.45	111.25	118.40	116.22	111.25	100.49	104.14	113.50	116.61
Jan. 28	119.47	111.07	118.20	116.22	111.07	100.16	104.14	113.31	116.41
21	119.58	111.25	118.40	116.41	111.07	100.16	104.31	113.31	116.41
14	119.57	111.25	118.60	116.41	111.25	99.84	104.14	113.50	116.41
7	119.69	111.07	118.60	116.41	111.07	99.36	103.80	113.50	116.22
High 1944	120.44	111.44	118.80	116.61	111.44	100.81	104.66	113.89	116.61
Low 1944	119.41	110.70	118.20	116.22	110.88	99.04	103.30	113.12	116.02
High 1943	120.87	111.44	119.41	117.00	111.81	99.36	103.47	114.27	117.40
Low 1943	116.85	107.44	116.80	113.89	108.88	92.35	97.16	111.81	114.46
1 Year ago Mar. 20, 1943	116.86	103.42	117.80	115.43	110.52	95.92	100.32	113.12	115.63
2 Years ago Mar. 21, 1942	117.89	106.21	115.63	113.12	107.09	91.34	97.00	109.79	112.75

MOODY'S BOND YIELD AVERAGES
(Based on Individual Closing Prices)

1944— Daily Averages	U. S. Govt. Bonds	Avge. Corporate*	Corporate by Ratings*				Corporate by Groups*		
			Aaa	Aa	A	Baa	R. R.	P. U.	Indus.
Mar. 21	1.82	3.09	2.73	2.82	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.83
20	1.82	3.09	2.73	2.82	3.09	3.70	3.48	2.97	2.83
18	1.80	3.09	2.74	2.83	3.09	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.83
17	1.80	3.09	2.74	2.82	3.10	3.71	3.47	2.97	2.83
16	1.80	3.09	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.70	3.48	2.96	2.83
15	1.80	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.70	3.47	2.96	2.83
14	1.81	3.09	2.74	2.82	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.83
13	1.81	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.84
11	1.81	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.84
10	1.81	3.09	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.70	3.48	2.97	2.83
9	1.81	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.83
8	1.81	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.84
7	1.80	3.09	2.74	2.82	3.10	3.71	3.48	2.97	2.83
6	1.79	3.10	2.74	2.82	3.10	3.72	3.48	2.97	2.83
4	1.80	3.10	2.74	2.82	3.10	3.72	3.49	2.97	2.83
3	1.80	3.10	2.74	2.82	3.10	3.72	3.49	2.97	2.83
2	1.80	3.10	2.74	2.84	3.10	3.72	3.49	2.97	2.84
1	1.81	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.10	3.72	3.49	2.97	2.84
Feb. 25	1.81	3.10	2.74	2.83	3.11	3.73	3.49	2.98	2.84
18	1.83	3.10	2.73	2.83	3.11	3.72	3.49	2.98	2.83
11	1.85	3.10	2.73	2.84	3.10	3.72	3.49	2.98	2.83
4	1.87	3.10	2.73	2.84	3.10	3.72	3.50	2.98	2.82
Jan. 28	1.87	3.11	2.74	2.84	3.11	3.74	3.50	2.99	2.83
21	1.86	3.10	2.73	2.83	3.11	3.74	3.49	2.99	2.83
14	1.86	3.10	2.72	2.83	3.10	3.76	3.50	2.98	2.83
7	1.85	3.11	2.72	2.83	3.11	3.79	3.52	2.98	2.84
High 1944	1.87	3.13	2.74	2.84	3.12	3.81	3.55	3.00	2.85
Low 1944	1.79	3.09	2.71	2.82	3.09	3.70	3.47	2.96	2.82
High 1943	2.08	3.31	2.81	2.96	3.23	4.25	3.93	3.07	2.93
Low 1943	1.79	3.09	2.68	2.80	3.07	3.79	3.54	2.94	2.78
1 Year ago Mar. 20, 1943	2.07	3.20	2.76	2.88	3.14	4.01	3.73	3.00	2.87
2 Years ago Mar. 21, 1942	1.98	3.38	2.87	3.00	3.33	4.32	3.94	3.18	3.02

*These prices are computed from average yields on the basis of one "typical" bond (3¾% coupon, maturing in 25 years) and do not purport to show either the average level or the average movement of actual price quotations. They merely serve to illustrate in a more comprehensive way the relative levels and the relative movement of yield averages, the latter being the true picture of the bond market.

†The latest complete list of bonds used in computing these indexes was published in the issue of Jan. 14, 1943, page 202.

Further Comments On Subject Of World Peace Organization

(Continued from first page)

sinks into another dark age; it has happened before and it can happen again.

Archaelogical research has furnished conclusive evidence that man existed on EARTH a million years ago. Is it reasonable to assume that it required nine hundred and ninety-five thousand years for man to reach that primitive state which our history discovered in the valley of the Nile about 3000 B.C. and then only five thousand years for man to reach his present enlightened state? Is it not more reasonable to assume that those tribesmen of 3000 B.C. were the scattered remnants of an earlier and perhaps highly enlightened civilization just then coming out of a dark age.

My conclusion is, and I believe that it has been the conclusion of other students of history, as well, that the primitive races mentioned in the legendary part of our world history were not the first human beings to develop an organized society. Monuments found in the Easter Islands, ruined fortresses and temples found in Peru, the Pyramids, the Sphinx and last, though not the least important, the burial mounds of the North American continent left by a prelengendary race of men, are all mute evidence that Mother Earth has been well populated many times by highly enlightened peoples who flourished and died and disappeared, leaving no trace of their having been here other than a shriveled mummy, a pile of stones, or a piece of broken pottery.

Earth has perhaps nurtured countless cycles of civilization equal in duration and equal in accomplishment to our own, each cycle being separated from the one preceding, by a dark age so long that all records perished. Even the suviving members of the human race lost the memory of things that had been.

What brought these cycles of civilization to an end? War, of course. What other explanation could there be?

If you prefer to believe the story of the Deluge, as told in Genesis, you may think God drowned them but I do not think so. Why waste so much good water when man, left to his own devices, can so easily accomplish his own destruction.

At first these men of the "Cycles" fought little wars with clubs and stones and bows and spears. Then inventive genius improved their tools for fighting and wars became larger and were fought with muskets and cannon. Gradually their wars became world wars fought with every conceivable scientific device including poison gas, disease germs, death rays and insect pests. I heard recently of a scientist who had developed an insect pest in a laboratory which will spread so fast that a few canisters of it dropped over enemy territory would destroy the entire growing food supply in a few weeks.

Mr. Wilson thinks that Universal Brotherhood might save the human race and I agree with him, if it were possible to put over the idea but is it possible? Buddha, born 563 B.C., renounced his wealth and position as a high caste Brahmin to become a wanderer and teach brotherhood but the world was still a sorry mess when Christ was born some five hundred odd years later.

Christ taught brotherhood but his followers have given him nothing more than lip service. Some of the worst atrocities in history have been committed by soldiers who invariably knelt in prayer before they sacked a town. Pulpit orators of the present day, on both sides of this unhappy controversy, still urge their congregations to fight.

Brotherhood! Yes, brotherhood for our own race, our own color, and our own creed but brotherhood for all the motley crew that clutters the earth—who could conceive of such a thing?

I happened to make that remark to a clergyman not long ago.

"God can," he replied, "and until man does he must struggle on through cycle after cycle, coming each time to the same miserable end."

"It would take a hundred cycles and another million years to teach that philosophy to the human race," I retorted.

"Well," he smiled, "what's a million years to God? He has plenty of time on his hands."

Something might happen to wake us up this time but I doubt it. Frankly, I give this cycle just about one more century at most.

ANONYMOUS.

Philadelphia, Pa.
March 17, 1944.

P.S.—Much of this article has been quoted from a novel which I expect to publish during the summer. Writers of tall tales please lay off.

Editor, The Commercial & Financial Chronicle:

I wish to express my thanks for "Why A New League of Nations Will Not Insure Permanent Peace," by Alexander Wilson.

However, regarding Roosevelt Socialization, I don't go along with you (?) 100%. I admit and deplore the abuses, but technological development is making it inevitable, apparently. The "Free Enterprisers" (Free Booters) have had their day. However, "human nature being what it is" as Belloc says in his "How the Reformation Happened," I hold no illusions about the "new order"—there'll be "hell to pay."

In every other respect I find myself in harmony with the article and glad of the opportunity to express my appreciation.

WILLIAM J. SALMON.

New York City.
March 15, 1944.

Moody's Daily Commodity Index

Tuesday, March 14, 1944	250.8
Wednesday, March 15	251.3
Thursday, March 16	251.3
Friday, March 17	251.5
Saturday, March 18	251.4
Monday, March 20	251.4
Tuesday, March 21	251.0
Two weeks ago, March 7	249.7
Month ago, Feb. 21	249.5
Year ago, March 20	247.5
1943 High, April 1	249.8
Low, Jan. 2	240.2
1944 High, March 17	251.5
Low, Jan. 5	247.0

H. L. Derby Heads NAM Committee On Veterans Employment Problems

Harry L. Derby, newly appointed Chairman of the Committee on Veterans Employment Problems of the National Association of Manufacturers, called upon employers throughout the nation on March 14 to give the returning veteran "his second best welcome."

"The veteran is going to get his top welcome from his family, of course," Mr. Derby said. "But it behooves the business men of this country, whether they be in industry, agriculture, transportation or distribution, to give the veteran his second best welcome. The reception that the veteran gets when he returns to his old job will go a long way in determining whether future relations between employer and employee will be amicable with maximum and mutual understanding, confidence and trust."

President of the American Cyanamid Co., Mr. Derby inaugurated a program for veterans' employment within the chemical industry several months ago and is thoroughly familiar with the many complex problems that must be solved in designing workable plans for rehabilitation and re-employment.

In announcing the appointment of Mr. Derby, President of the American Cyanamid and Chemical Corporation, Robert M. Gaylord, NAM President, said that he intended that the work of this Committee should be among the Association's foremost 1944 activities, "because I regard the re-employment of our returning service men and women as the most serious problem that America faces in the transition and immediate post-war days ahead. This Committee can perform a great constructive service to industry and to the nation in helping to meet and solve this problem."

Mr. Derby, champion of sound human relations between employer and employee, said that the Committee would number more than 50 top-flight industrial executives, most of them well known for clear, advanced thinking in the field of improved industrial relations.

A former industry member of the National War Labor Board, Mr. Derby announced the appointment of three regional Vice-Chairmen of the Committee. Representing the South is John U. Barr, Proprietor, Federal Fibre Mills, New Orleans, La.; the Middle West, Craig R. Shaeffer, President, W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co., Fort Madison, Iowa; the Southwest, John R. Suman, Vice-President, Humble Oil and Refining Co., Houston, Texas.

"The membership of this Committee has been carefully selected to achieve a maximum area of representation, both geographically and industrially," Mr. Derby said. He added:

"The importance and significance of this problem has prompted the National Association of Manufacturers to hold a series of meetings with the informed Government officials and industrial executives for the purpose of exploring the human and technical problems involved as background preparation for the first meeting of the V. E. P. Committee scheduled for March 28 in New York."

Mr. Derby said that as a result of these preliminary meetings, it was his feeling "that the Committee's activities for this year will fall into four major divisions," viz. (1) A company program to formulate specific practices to guide management in developing in-plant programs for employing veterans; "these," he said, "are two major phases of this problem, (a) the absorption of able-bodied veterans and (b) placement and adjustment of handicapped and disabled veterans; (2) a community program looking toward "better community understanding of veteran problems"; (3) a national program for the study and consideration of all proposed legislation dealing with veteran problems and appraisal of the national situation with a view to making recommendations to Congress to facilitate the absorption of veterans in productive jobs; (4) an information program for accurate, up-to-the-minute information on the problem.

Mr. Derby pointed out that the NAM Committee on Veterans' Employment Problems would initiate immediately a series of veterans employment clinics throughout the country for a comprehensive discussion of problems and their solutions. He said that the NAM Committee was working with the full cooperation of the National Industrial Council, whose more than 40,000 individual employers will implement and make effective the program at the State and local level.

NHA Reports 37,341 Housing Accommodations For War Workers Completed In January

A total of 37,341 housing accommodations for war workers was completed in January, John B. Blandford, Jr., Administrator of the National Housing Agency, announced on March 11. These completions, said the announcement, brought the total completions under the war housing program since the Summer of 1940 to 1,479,502. Of this grand total, 1,277,820 are new units and 201,682 were provided through the conversion of existing structures into additional units. From the advices of the NHA we also quote:

"Privately-financed new construction totaled 638,025 units. Completions of new publicly-financed war housing total 639,795 units and include 443,978 family units, 148,087 dormitory units for single workers and 47,730 stopgap units comprised of trailers and other portable shelter. Almost all publicly-financed housing now being built is of temporary construction whereas the privately-financed units are of permanent type and will continue in use after the war.

"The January completions included 33,189 new units, of which 19,280 were built under public financing and 13,909 by private builders. Completions under the conversion program totaled 4,152 units, of which 3,289 units were publicly-financed under Government lease and 863 were privately financed.

"Included in the publicly-financed units completed in January were 12,510 family units, 5,011 dormitory units for single workers and 1,759 stopgap emergency units comprised of trailers or other portable shelter.

"Housing under construction on January 31 totaled 173,716 units and included 76,564 new publicly-financed units and 74,110 new privately-financed units. Under the conversion program for adding living units in existing structures, 18,992 publicly-financed and 4,050 privately-financed units were under construction.

"During January, 15,604 new units were placed under construction. This total included 6,121 publicly-financed and 9,483 privately-financed units. Conversion units placed under construction totaled 3,960, of which 2,918 were being publicly-financed and 1,042 privately-financed."

Electric Output For Week Ended Mar. 18, 1944, Shows 11.5% Gain Over Same Week Last Year

The Edison Electric Institute, in its current weekly report, estimated that the production of electricity by the electric light and power industry of the United States for the week ended Mar. 18, 1944, was approximately 4,400,246,000 kwh., compared with 3,946,836,000 kwh. in the corresponding week a year ago, an increase of 11.5%. The output for the week ended Mar. 11, 1944, was 12.2% in excess of the similar period of 1943.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

	Week Ended—			
Major Geographical Divisions—	Mar. 18	Mar. 11	Mar. 4	Feb. 26
New England	5.2	7.0	8.4	7.5
Middle Atlantic	10.7	12.6	12.5	13.8
Central Industrial	8.8	8.9	8.8	10.5
West Central	8.1	5.7	6.4	7.1
Southern States	9.5	11.2	13.4	14.4
Rocky Mountain	5.2	5.6	7.2	9.4
Pacific Coast	28.3	27.2	29.3	29.5
Total United States	11.5	12.2	13.1	14.2

DATA FOR RECENT WEEKS (Thousands of Kilowatt-Hours)

Week Ended—	1944	1943	% Change over 1943	1942	1932	1929
Jan. 1	4,337,387	3,779,993	+14.7	3,288,685	1,619,265	1,542,000
Jan. 8	4,567,959	3,952,587	+15.6	3,472,579	1,602,482	1,733,810
Jan. 15	4,539,083	3,952,479	+14.8	3,450,468	1,598,201	1,736,721
Jan. 22	4,531,662	3,974,202	+14.0	3,440,163	1,588,967	1,717,315
Jan. 29	4,523,763	3,976,844	+13.8	3,468,193	1,588,853	1,728,203
Feb. 5	4,524,134	3,960,242	+14.2	3,474,638	1,578,817	1,726,161
Feb. 12	4,532,730	3,939,708	+15.1	3,421,639	1,545,459	1,718,304
Feb. 19	4,511,562	3,948,749	+14.3	3,423,589	1,512,158	1,699,250
Feb. 26	4,444,939	3,892,796	+14.2	3,409,907	1,519,679	1,706,719
March 4	4,464,686	3,946,630	+13.1	3,392,121	1,538,452	1,702,570
March 11	4,425,630	3,944,679	+12.2	3,357,444	1,537,747	1,687,229
March 18	4,400,246	3,946,836	+11.5	3,357,032	1,514,553	1,683,262
March 25	------	3,928,170		3,345,502	1,480,208	1,679,589

Bankers' Dollar Acceptances Outstanding On February 29 Increase To $134,772,000

The volume of bankers' dollar acceptances outstanding on Feb. 29 amounted to $134,772,000, an increase of $14,275,000 from the Jan. 31 total, according to the monthly acceptance survey issued March 16 by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. As compared with a year ago, the Feb. 29 total represents a gain of $7,710,000.

In the month-to-month comparison, dollar exchange, and those based on goods stored in or shipped between foreign countries were lower, while in the yearly analysis only credits for imports were higher.

The Reserve Bank's report follows:

BANKERS DOLLAR ACCEPTANCES OUTSTANDING—UNITED STATES BY FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICTS

Federal Reserve District—	Feb. 29, '44	Jan. 31, '44	Feb. 27, '43
1 Boston	$22,793,000	$20,739,000	$24,921,000
2 New York	81,299,000	74,242,000	71,646,000
3 Philadelphia	6,709,000	5,971,000	5,423,000
4 Cleveland	958,000	1,217,000	1,968,000
5 Richmond	2,025,000	2,098,000	1,667,000
6 Atlanta	3,777,000	2,922,000	2,588,000
7 Chicago	5,067,000	3,578,000	4,611,000
8 St. Louis	449,000	242,000	387,000
9 Minneapolis	52,000	36,000	164,000
10 Kansas City	------	------	------
11 Dallas	477,000	296,000	775,000
12 San Francisco	11,166,000	9,156,000	12,912,000
Grand Total	$134,772,000	$120,497,000	$127,062,000

Increase for month $14,275,000 Increase for year $7,710,000

ACCORDING TO NATURE OF CREDIT

	Feb. 29, '44	Jan. 31, '44	Feb. 27, '43
Imports	$82,905,000	$70,795,000	$59,917,000
Exports	11,717,000	11,541,000	14,398,000
Domestic shipments	10,481,000	9,195,000	11,586,000
Domestic warehouse credits	21,243,000	20,203,000	29,164,000
Dollar exchange	129,000	130,000	403,000
Based on goods stored in or shipped between foreign countries	8,297,000	8,633,000	11,594,000

BILLS HELD BY ACCEPTING BANKS

Own Bills $56,974,000 Bills of Others $48,751,000 Total $105,725,000
Increase for month $12,095,000

CURRENT MARKET RATES ON PRIME BANKERS ACCEPTANCES MARCH 16, 1944

Days	Dealers' Buying Rates	Dealers' Selling Rates
30	1/2	7/16
60	1/2	7/16
90	1/2	7/16
120	9/16	1/2
150	5/8	9/16
180	5/8	9/16

The following table, compiled by us, furnishes a record of the volume of bankers' acceptances outstanding at the close of each month since March 31, 1941:

1941—	$	1942—	$	1943—	$
Mar. 31	217,312,000	Mar. 31	182,675,000	Mar. 31	129,818,000
Apr. 30	219,561,000	Apr. 30	177,293,000	Apr. 30	128,350,000
May 31	215,005,000	May 29	173,906,000	May 29	135,815,000
June 30	212,932,000	June 30	162,849,000	June 30	139,846,000
July 31	209,899,000	July 31	156,302,000	July 31	138,692,000
Aug. 30	197,472,000	Aug. 31	139,304,000	Aug. 31	130,244,000
Sept. 30	176,801,000	Sept. 30	123,494,000	Sept. 30	117,016,000
Oct. 31	184,806,000	Oct. 31	118,581,000	Oct. 30	114,883,000
Nov. 29	193,590,000	Nov. 30	116,067,000	Nov. 30	111,289,000
Dec. 31	194,220,000	Dec. 31	118,039,000	Dec. 31	116,814,000
1942—		1943—		1944—	
Jan. 31	197,278,000	Jan. 30	119,682,000	Jan. 31	120,497,000
Feb. 28	190,010,000	Feb. 27	127,062,000	Feb. 29	134,772,000

Commercial Paper Outstanding

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York announced on March 14 that reports received by the bank from commercial paper dealers show a total of $213,700,000 of open market paper outstanding on Feb. 29. This was an increase of $4,800,000 as compared with the Jan. 31 figures of $208,900,000, and an increase of $4,600,000 over the Feb. 27, 1943, total of $209,100,000.

Following are the totals for the last two years:

1944—	$	1943—	$
Feb 29	213,700,000	Feb 27	209,100,000
Jan 31	208,900,000	Jan 30	220,400,000
1943—		1942—	
Dec 31	202,000,000	Dec 31	229,900,000
Nov 30	203,300,000	Nov 30	260,600,000
Oct 30	187,800,000	Oct 31	271,400,000
Sep 30	169,500,000	Sep 30	281,800,000
Aug 31	156,200,000	Aug 31	297,200,000
July 31	149,800,000	July 31	305,300,000
Jun 30	143,300,000	Jun 30	315,200,000
May 29	159,600,000	May 29	354,200,000
Apr 30	178,900,000	Apr 30	373,100,000
Mar 31	200,600,000	Mar 31	384,300,000

Steel Operations Higher—Manpower Picture Tighter—Mills Loaded Beyond Capacity

"Highlights this week include the telescoping of delivery schedules on additional invasion equipment, the tighter manpower picture resulting from stricter draft rules (expected to be a brake against production), and an improvement in the steel mill product mix due to a stronger buying of bars, alloy steel and other items," says "The Iron Age" in its issue of today (March 23), further adding:

"Meanwhile, the industry's attention centered upon the deliberations of the National War Labor Board in Washington upon the steel wage issue. It was understood the USWA at the start of this week had dropped 10 of its 24 demands but still remained firm in seeking a general wage adjustment of 17 cents per hour, a rehabilitation fund for steelworkers in the armed services, a guaranteed minimum weekly wage, vacations with pay and other features. The 10 points dropped will be referred to collective bargaining.

"Counterproposals by United States Steel Corp. included the argument that WLB has no jurisdiction to consider the 17 cent per hour wage demand, a provision against the maintenance of membership and check-off provisions of a contract, and eight other points.

"The rush to complete invasion equipment may result in a large share of this material being completed before the tightened draft rules bite deepest, but the steel industry expects from 5% to 10% of its younger workers probably will be lost through the government's decision to draft men under 26 except in extremely essential cases. The impact in some mills is expected to be felt first in the conditioning and finishing departments and then to work back toward raw steel.

"Tighter than ever is the flat rolled steel production situation by reason of the shell container program and the enlarged landing mat requirements of the armed forces.

"Tin mill product orders up to the full extent of the 825,000-ton directives, are expected to materialize completely for second quarter. Electrolytic mill scehules are rapidly filling for second quarter and some companies are receiving good tonnage for their bonderizing or chemically treated lines. As pointed out previously, electrolytic output this year is expected to be 20% to 25% of total tin mill production, which includes production of black plate also.

"Production of beer cans will be heavy in second and third quarters, with about 95,000 tons of materials ordered for that purpose."

The American Iron and Steel Institute on March 20 announced that telegraphic reports which it had received indicated that the operating rate of steel companies having 94% of the steel capacity of the industry will be 99.2% of capacity for the week beginning March 20, compared with 99.1% one week ago, 97.7% one month ago and 99.1% one year ago. The operating rate for the week beginning March 20 is equivalent to 1,777,000 tons of steel ingots and castings, compared to 1,775,200 tons one week ago, 1,750,000 tons one month ago, and 1,716,100 tons one year ago.

"Steel" of Cleveland, in its summary of the iron and steel markets, on March 20 stated in part as follows:

"Continued and increased demand for steel sheets and plates is the dominant feature of the steel market and war requirements are increasing rather than lessening as the year advances.

"Shipwork, landing craft, pontoons, landing mats, overseas containers and signal corps equipment are at the top of preference, with directives necessary for prompt delivery. These products lean heavily on sheet mills, which are handicapped by the large portion of capacity engaged on strip-plates. On heavy gages of hot-rolled sheets some producers have nothing to offer before October. Cold-rolled sheets and lighter gages of hot-rolled can be promised for August and September. Increased allocations for tin plate have tightened the position of some producers of light galvanized, largely for warehouses, one producer quoting November delivery.

"Bar demand holds at the accelerated rate that followed the lull in early weeks of the year and while May can be promised in some instances delivery in June is the rule. Larger sizes are in the latter range.

"A new all-time high in plate production seems likely this month. Output on a daily basis seems larger than in January when the prior record was made with 1,173,164 net tons. In appraising the plate situation two lines of thought are apparent. One holds that a relaxation is likely about the end of second quarter when additional capacity will get into production; the other believes plates will be continuously tight to the end of the year. The latter takes into consideration heavy Navy demands imposed in addition to the merchant ship program. At present mills can offer little tonnage for delivery before September on current buying.

"Pig iron continues quiet, supply being sufficient for all needs and many melters unable to consume as much as usual because of labor shortage. While most buying is for only a month ahead some contracts are being entered for second quarter."

Hull To Speak At Pan American Union

An address by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, will feature the Pan American Day exercises to be held in Washington on April 14th. Mr. Hull will speak on a program to be presented at the Pan American Union on the evening of April 14th, which will also feature a concert of music of the Americas by the United States Navy Band Orchestra.

The April 14th program will climax a series of events commemorating the annual observance of Pan American Day, which is celebrated in all the Republics of the Western Hemisphere. On Thursday evening, April 13th, the finals of the National Discussion Contest on Inter-American Affairs will be held at the Pan American Union. The six finalists selected in regional contests participated in by colleges and university students throughout the country will discuss "How Can Inter-American Cooperation Be Made Permanent." The program will be broadcast over the Blue Network as a feature of the Town Meeting of the Air.

Earlier in the week the Columbia Broadcasting System will present a special Pan American Day program in its Columbia School of the Air series. This program will be presented on April 11th, and will also originate at the Pan American Union. Senior and junior high school students of the District of Columbia will be present at the broadcast, which will feature music of the Americas played by the Navy School of Music.

The Inter-American Commission of Women, composed of representatives appointed by the Governments of the American Republics to study questions relating to the political and civil status of women, will also hold a meeting in Washington in April, inaugurating its sessions on April 14th.

From Washington Ahead Of The News

(Continued from First Page)

be effective in those particular States. And inasmuch as it had been printed, any State could adopt it which pleased to do so. This situation made Mr. Roosevelt and his aides look a little foolish.

Furthermore, none of the Governors, from their replies, seemed to have felt that they had been put on the spot at all. Some of the replies were right caustic and said, in effect, that they had had the soldier vote problem in hand all along without the hullabaloo at Washington.

What stood out in the fight, however, was the manner in which the Republicans came from behind. The fact is that it was not a party fight. Several Republican stalwarts voted on the other side. But Senator Guffey in a statement prepared by the CIO Political Committee, charged that it was an "unholy alliance" between Southern Democrats and Northern Republicans. The Republicans were placed on the defensive. They were placed in the light of not letting members of the armed forces vote because of a fear they would vote for their Commander-in-Chief. From this highly unfavorable position the Republicans emerged beating the New Deal all over the head with charges that their effort to limit the vote to the Presidency (along with the Senator and Congressman, unidentified) was carrying on its campaign of 11 years to erase the Governors and State governments from the public's consciousness. What Mr. Roosevelt and his forces were trying to do, the Republicans insisted, was to tell the armed forces that their Governors were of relatively no importance. This was all just a piece of the pattern, they insisted, of crushing the Supreme Court, the legislative branch and the State governments so that the Washington bureaucracy would be justified. You can say what you want to, it sounded pretty logical, and to a Washington observer, the New Dealers were hanging on the ropes at the end.

Not through any of it did we see Mr. Roosevelt's former astuteness. The talent was on the side of the Republicans. Their campaign of solicitude for the Governors tended to buck the Governors up, of course. Anyway, there is no reason now why any member of the armed forces can't vote in all States with the possible exception of one, if he has the will to do so.

The Republicans aren't being so successful, however, with another propaganda proposition they are up against. This concerns the professed worry, reflected also in the magazines and otherwise, as to whether they will nominate "their best man." The "best man," in the minds of these worriers, is Wendell Willkie. If we had to bet today it would be that the Republicans aren't going to do this. Certainly the indications are that they are not. The propaganda in behalf of this "best man" has been so great there will be a tremendous let-down; these worriers will have been justified and we can hear their wailing now.

It's a powerful and effective propaganda. It is difficult to deal with. The fact is, of course, that the delegates to the convention, all very eager to win, are going to nominate whom they consider to be the "best" man, but he is not likely to be the "best" man the worriers want.

National Fertilizer Association Price Index Continues To Advance

The weekly wholesale commodity price index, compiled by The National Fertilizer Association and made public on March 20, advanced fractionally to 137.3 in the week ending March 18 from 137.0 in the preceding week. A month ago this index stood at 137.4 and a year ago at 135.5, based on the 1935-1939 average as 100. The index has risen 1.3% from the corresponding period of last year. The association's report went on to say:

The all-commodity price index continued to advance as the farm products, textiles and miscellaneous commodities groups moved into higher ground. There were higher quotations in the farm products group for cotton, rye, calves, hogs and lambs, while the only item to decline in this group was good cattle. The foods group continued to decline as lower prices for fresh pork more than offset the rise in potatoes. The foods group index number is now back to the level of July, 1943. The miscellaneous commodities group reaches a new high and marks its first change since September, 1943, as higher prices were quoted for paperboard and sulphite pulp. The textiles group continued its upward trend as cotton reached the level of a year ago. All other group indexes remained unchanged.

During the week nine price series advanced and two declined; in the preceding week they were evenly balanced with three advances and three declines; and in the second preceding week there were three advances and six declines.

WEEKLY WHOLESALE COMMODITY PRICE INDEX
Compiled by The National Fertilizer Association
1935-1939=100*

% Each Group Bears to the Total Index	Group	Latest Week Mar. 18, 1944	Preceding Week Mar. 11, 1944	Month Ago Feb. 19, 1944	Year Ago Mar. 20, 1943
25.3	Foods	137.7	137.8	139.2	138.2
	Fats and Oils	146.1	146.1	146.1	148.0
	Cottonseed Oil	159.6	159.6	159.6	160.1
23.0	Farm Products	158.5	157.4	157.4	155.1
	Cotton	200.9	199.8	198.5	200.9
	Grains	164.8	164.8	164.8	139.0
	Livestock	149.7	148.2	148.4	151.9
17.3	Fuels	130.1	130.1	130.1	121.8
10.8	Miscellaneous commodities	132.2	131.4	131.4	130.4
8.2	Textiles	152.0	151.9	151.7	151.4
7.1	Metals	104.4	104.4	104.4	104.4
6.1	Building materials	152.4	152.4	152.4	152.2
1.3	Chemicals and drugs	127.7	127.7	127.7	127.0
.3	Fertilizer materials	117.7	117.7	117.7	117.6
.3	Fertilizers	119.7	†119.7	†119.7	119.8
.3	Farm machinery	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.1
100.0	All groups combined	137.3	137.0	137.4	135.5

*Indexes on 1926-1928 base were: March 18, 1944, 107.0; March 11, 106.7, and March 20, 1943, 105.6. †Revised.

Census Bureau Report On Cotton Ginning

The Bureau of the Census of the Department of Commerce at Washington on March 20 issued its final report on cotton ginning, excluding linters, which we give in full below:

REPORT OF COTTON GINNED—CROPS OF 1943, 1942 AND 1941

State—	Cotton Ginned (Exclusive of Linters) — Running Bales (Counting Round as Half Bales) *1943	*1942	*1941	Equivalent—500-pound Bales 1943	1942	1941
United States	11,120,512	12,438,033	10,494,881	11,420,561	12,819,506	10,741,589
Alabama	931,445	892,458	774,441	955,856	921,540	788,033
Arizona	127,296	187,703	178,337	129,727	191,999	182,719
Arkansas	1,086,382	1,427,890	1,381,214	1,124,877	1,495,249	1,437,605
California	331,589	399,361	395,569	339,477	404,497	402,122
Florida	14,146	14,536	14,885	13,852	14,349	14,367
Georgia	848,402	853,348	637,469	850,615	860,143	629,770
Illinois	2,081	4,484	5,474	2,052	4,527	5,721
Kentucky	11,147	15,238	17,127	10,685	14,914	16,863
Louisiana	712,378	572,347	310,501	741,530	594,569	313,475
Mississippi	1,781,926	1,886,981	1,387,558	1,837,481	1,967,978	1,423,908
Missouri	296,046	414,286	471,019	289,954	411,311	471,490
New Mexico	102,275	104,374	96,059	103,426	104,943	97,621
North Carolina	610,888	735,079	568,978	604,108	735,292	559,466
Oklahoma	373,321	687,465	692,303	379,595	702,046	712,140
South Carolina	692,600	694,577	408,098	695,366	698,517	403,387
Tennessee	479,694	602,538	574,121	492,338	622,301	596,113
Texas	2,699,129	2,917,035	2,557,702	2,830,033	3,047,128	2,663,004
Virginia	19,767	28,333	24,026	19,589	28,183	23,785

*Includes 107,053 bales of the crop of 1943 ginned prior to Aug. 1 which was counted in the supply for the season for 1942-43, compared with 48,626 and 1,969 bales of the crops of 1942 and 1941.

The statistics in this report for 1943 are subject to revision. Included in the total for 1943 are 34,903 bales which ginners estimated would be turned out after the March canvass; round bales, none for 1943; none for 1942; and 875 for 1941; American-Egyptian bales, 59,339 for 1943; 73,808 for 1942; and 57,929 for 1941; Sea-Island, 374 for 1943; 918 for 1942; and 3,496 for 1941.

The average gross weight of the bale for the crop, counting round as half bales and excluding linters, is 513.5 pounds for 1943; 515.3 for 1942; and 511.8 for 1941. The number of ginneries operated for the crop of 1943 is 10,088 compared with 10,775 for 1942; and 11,148 for 1941.

Consumption, Stocks, Imports and Exports—United States

Cotton consumed during the month of February, 1944, amounted to 811,274 bales. Cotton on hand in consuming establishments on Feb. 29 was 2,351,174 bales, and in public storages and at compresses 11,518,942 bales. The number of active consuming cotton spindles for the month was 22,513,390.

In the interest of national defense, the Department of Commerce has discontinued until further notice the publication of statistics concerning imports and exports.

World Statistics

Because of war conditions and the difficulties in obtaining dependable world statistics, such data are being omitted from this report for the time being.

SEC Surveys Data On Profits, Operations Of American Listed Corporations

The Securities and Exchange Commission made public on March 8 Part II of a four-volume series of reports entitled, "Data on Profits and Operations—1936-1942," another in a series of statistical reports of the "Survey of American Listed Corporations." Part I of the report was referred to in our issue of March 9, page 1024. As stated therein, the current series of reports presents data on profits and operations for 1,106 companies and their consolidated subsidiaries for the years 1936 through 1942. These companies are classified in 75 manufacturing groups; their total assets in 1942 exceeded $48,000,000,000. The data are taken from registration statements and annual reports filed by registrants under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and from annual reports filed by registrants under the Securities Act of 1933. The first volume, Part I, contained data on 261 companies in 24 industry groups.

Part II of the current series, released March 8, includes data on 271 corporations in the following 15 industry groups, most of which are engaged in the production of war materials:

Agricultural Machinery and Tractors
Aircraft and Aircraft Equipment
Electrical Supplies and Equipment—Miscellaneous
Machinery Parts and Equipment:
  Construction, Mining and Related Machinery
  Engines and Turbines
  General Industrial Machinery
  Metal Working Machinery
  Printing Trades Machinery
  Special-Industry Machinery
Office Machinery and Equipment
Photographic Equipment
Radio and Radio Equipment
Railroad Equipment
Screw Machine Products
Tires and other Rubber Products

The Commission also states:

"The survey reports data for each individual company and combined totals for each of the industry groups. For each year covered, data are reported showing Net Sales, Operating Profit, Provision for War and Related Contingencies Provided Out of Income, Net Profit Before Income Taxes and Net Profit After Income Taxes. Operational expenses reported are Selling, General and Administrative Expenses; Maintenance and Repairs; and Depreciation, Depletion, Amortization, etc. Each of these items in every year covered is shown as a percentage of Net Sales. Also reported are Net Worth (beginning of period) and Intangible Assets (beginning of period) and the Net Profit Before Income Taxes as a Percent of Net Worth and the Net Profit After Income Taxes as a Percent of Net Worth.

Whenever renegotiation of U. S. Government contracts has been completed and the effect of renegotiation has been reported or provision has been made for renegotiation by the registrants, the items affected have been adjusted and the amounts of adjustment are shown in a footnote showing the effect the renegotiation or provision for renegotiation has had upon the companies' operations for that year. Where the contracts of the registrant are subject to renegotiation or renegotiation is contemplated or in progress and has been reported by the registrant, such facts have been noted on the tables.

Reported as part of Depreciation are charges which have been made for the Amortization of Emergency Facilities, and whenever these amounts have been reported, they have been revealed in a footnote.

Parts III and IV, to be subsequently released, will contain the industry groups shown below:

Part III

Automobile Parts and Accessories
Automolies
Building Equipment
Building Material other than Clay Products and Cement
Cement
Clay Products
Commercial Cars and Trucks
Iron and Steel:
  Iron and Steel Foundry Products
  Miscellaneous Iron and Steel Products
  Pig Iron Producers
  Rolling Mills without Steel Making Facilities
  Steel Producers with Blast Furnace Facilities
  Steel Producers without Blast Furnace Facilities
Metal and Glass Containers
Non-Ferrous Metals—including Smelting and Refining
Non-Ferrous Metal Products—Producers and Fabricators
Shipbuilding

Part IV

Chemicals
Clocks and Watches
Drugs and Medicines
Electrical Household Appliances and Related Products
Fertilizers
Firearms
Household Utensils
Lumber and Lumber Products
Manufacturing Industries—Miscellaneous
Oil Refining
Paints and Varnishes
Paper and Allied Products
Pens and Pencils
Printing and Publishing Companies (other than Publishers of Newspapers and Periodicals)
Publishing of Newspapers and Periodicals
Safety Razors
Toilet Preparations and Soap
Toys and Sporting Goods
Vegetable Oil Producers

A table showing the grand combined total for all 75 industry groups in the study will be presented in Part IV.

The SEC points out that copies of this report were not prepared for general distribution, but may be examined at the office of the Commission in Philadelphia or at any regional or branch office and at a number of selected depository libraries.

J. B. Eastman Dies

The death occurred on March 15 of Joseph B. Eastman, Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, and for 25 years a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. Eastman, who was 61 years of age, was named to the ICC in 1919 after service on the Massachusetts Public Service Commission. In 1933, President Roosevelt named him co-ordinator of the railroads and in that post he undertook to bring about economies in operation following the depression. In 1942 Mr. Eastman was named ODT Director. His death was due to coronary occlusion.

On March 16 President Roosevelt named Brig. Gen. Charles D. Young as Acting Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, following Mr. Eastman's death. In advising Gen. Young of the appointment, the President said:

"Pending the appointment of a successor to the late Hon. Joseph B. Eastman as Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, you are hereby designated and appointed Acting Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, with full authority to perform all the duties and functions of the office of Director."

In a statement sent from Washington to ODT offices, Gen. Young paid tribute to Mr. Eastman and called upon the ODT staff to "seek even more earnestly the attainment of the goal for which Mr. Eastman gave so generously that transportation shall not fail a nation and a world in need." We quote from the Associated advices March 16, which also said:

Gen. Young, who became associated with the ODT soon after its establishment on Dec. 18, 1941, and has been its Deputy Director for more than a year, said:

"Mr. Eastman is a war casualty. He refused to measure out his strength in the face of need. His death is more than a personal loss to us, it is occasion for a nation's sorrow. He was deeply appreciative of the fine and loyal service of all of us who served with him, in the field no less than in Washington. We can do no other, in recognition of his unselfish and splendid work, than to close ranks and seek even more earnestly the attainment of the goal for which Mr. Eastman gave so generously—that transportation shall not fail a nation and a world in need."

Through Secretary Stephen Early, President Roosevelt expressed "deep regret" at Mr. Eastman's death. Mr. Early disclosed Mr. Eastman had offered to resign as ODT Director Feb. 19, when his physicians told him he must spend at least two months in the hospital resting.

President Roosevelt sent Mr. Eastman a letter that same day, telling him:

"Follow strictly the doctor's orders and take that much needed rest. Do not for a moment think of resigning. Get yourself back in good form, for the job needs you and the country needs you."

From the Associated Press advices from Washington on March 15 we take the following:

"When President Wilson appointed Mr. Eastman to the ICC at the age of 36 he was the youngest man ever to assume commission membership. Successive Presidents, Republican and Democrat, gave him new appointments. Politically, he was listed as an 'independent.'

"The late Justice Louis D. Brandeis once remarked, 'Joe Eastman has more interest in public service and less in his own career than any man I have ever known.'

"When he first came to the ICC, the railroad industry viewed the official as unfriendly, partly because of his advocacy of Federal ownership of the carriers. In later years, Mr. Eastman and the railroad executives got along famously, but Mr. Eastman often found himself in conflict with labor organizations which objected to many of the official's proposals for rail coordination on the ground they would eliminate jobs.

Mr. Eastman, who was the son of a Presbyterian Minister, was born at Katonah, N. Y., on June 26, 1882.

"In an unusual tribute to their colleague, ICC members in 1939 abolished the long-time plan whereby the Chairmanship rotated annually on the basis of seniority and elected Mr. Eastman to a three-year term. There was talk then he would be the 'permanent' Chairman, but he had to give up the presiding officer's chair because of the added duties he took on in 1942."

Grocery Manufacturers Meeting June 14-15

The mid-year meeting of the Grocery Manufacturers of America will be held June 14 and 15 in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, it was announced on March 20 by Paul S. Willis, President of the group. Speakers of national prominence, he said, will be announced shortly together with subjects affecting 1944 operations of food processors.

New Cotton Exch. Members

Eric Alliot, President of the New York Cotton Exchange, announced on March 18 the election of Randolph Scott, of Memphis, Tenn., and Arthur Millwee Klugh, of Anderson, S. C., to membership in the Exchange.

Wholesale Commodity Index Unchanged In Week Ended March 11, Labor Dept. Reports

Commodity prices in primary markets were generally unchanged during the week ended March 11 and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index covering nearly 900 price series remained at 103.4% of the 1926 average, according to the U. S. Labor Department on March 16. It is also stated that continued seasonal advances for certain fruits and vegetables and higher prices for wheat, hogs, and cotton were offset by lower prices for eggs, wheat flour, and anthracite.

The all-commodity index is 0.3% higher than at this time last month and 0.2% above a year ago, says the Department, which also reports:

"Farm Products and Foods—During the week market prices for wheat averaged 0.2% above the week before. Quotations for hogs advanced 0.7% and cotton rose 1%. Prices for apples and potatoes in most markets, for oranges, and for rye flour were also higher. Decreases were reported for sheep, hay, and onions, and for wheat flour at Kansas City and Buffalo mills. There were further seasonal declines in prices for eggs, and lemons dropped nearly 10%. Compared with the corresponding week in March 1943, average prices for foods in primary markets were lower by 2.2% and farm products were 0.1% below a year ago.

"Industrial Commodities—Markets for industrial commodities continued to show relative stability with very few changes. The 7-day week instituted in anthracite mines as an emergency measure during February was discontinued and the price increase of 45c per ton allowed by OPA to cover the increased wage costs was eliminated. The average decline for anthracite market prices was 1.7% with most prices returning to the January levels. Additional minor upward adjustments in quotations for bituminous coal in a few localities resulted in an advance of 0.2% in prices. Except for a further rise of 2.6% in prices for rosin and a fractional decrease for No. 2 maple flooring, markets for other major industrial products remained unchanged from the preceding week."

A notation as follows is contained in the Department's announcement.

Note—During the period of rapid changes caused by price controls, materials allocation, and rationing the Bureau of Labor Statistics will attempt promptly to report changing prices. Indexes marked (*), however, must be considered as preliminary and subject to such adjustment and revision as required by later and more complete reports.

The following tables show (1) index numbers for the principal groups of commodities for the past 3 weeks, for February 12, 1944, and March 13, 1943, and the percentage changes from a week ago, a month ago and a year ago and (2) percentage changes in subgroup indexes from March 4 to March 11, 1944.

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 11, 1944

(1926=100)

Commodity Groups—	3-11 1944	3-4 1944	2-26 1944	2-12 1944	3-13 1943	Percentage changes to March 11, 1944 from— 3-4 1944	2-12 1944	3-13 1943
All commodities	*103.4	*103.4	*103.6	*103.1	103.2	0	+0.3	+ 0.2
Farm products	*123.4	*123.2	*124.2	121.9	123.5	+0.2	+1.2	— 0.1
Foods	104.6	104.5	104.6	104.0	107.0	+0.1	+0.6	— 2.2
Hides and leather products	117.6	117.6	117.5	117.8	118.4	0	—0.2	— 0.7
Textile products	97.3	97.3	97.2	97.2	96.8	0	+0.1	+ 0.5
Fuel and lighting materials	83.6	83.7	83.7	83.5	80.7	—0.1	+0.1	+ 3.6
Metals and metal products	*103.8	*103.8	*103.8	*103.8	103.9	0	0	— 0.1
Building materials	113.7	113.7	113.7	113.7	110.4	0	0	+ 3.0
Chemicals and allied products	100.4	100.4	100.4	100.4	100.0	0	0	+ 0.4
Housefurnishing goods	105.9	105.9	106.2	104.4	104.2	0	+1.4	+ 1.6
Miscellaneous commodities	93.3	93.3	93.3	93.0	91.2	0	+0.3	+ 2.3
Raw materials	*113.3	*113.2	*113.7	112.4	112.1	+0.1	+0.8	+ 1.1
Semimanufactured articles	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.2	92.9	0	+0.3	+ 0.6
Manufactured products	*100.6	*100.6	*100.6	*100.6	100.6	0	0	0
All commodities other than farm products	*99.2	*99.2	*99.2	*99.1	98.8	0	+0.1	+ 0.4
All commodities other than farm products and foods	*98.2	*98.3	*98.3	*98.1	96.6	—0.1	+0.1	+ 1.7

*Preliminary.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SUBGROUP INDEXES FROM MARCH 1, 1944 TO MARCH 11, 1944

Increases			
Fruit sand vegetables	0.7	Bituminous coal	0.2
Other farm products	0.3	Grains	0.2
Livestock and poultry	0.2		
Decreases			
Anthracite	1.7	Cereal products	0.3
Other foods	0.3		

Weekly Coal And Coke Production Statistics

The Solid Fuels Administration for War, U. S. Department of the Interior, in its latest report, states that the total production of soft coal in the week ended March 11, 1944 is estimated at 12,210,000 net tons, an increase of 160,000 tons, or 1.3%, over the preceding week. Bituminous coal and lignite output in the week ended March 13, 1943 amounted to 12,523,000 tons. Total production for the current year to date is 4.1% in excess of that for the same period last year.

According to the U. S. Bureau of Mines, output of Pennsylvania anthracite for the week ended March 11, 1944, was estimated at 1,250,000 tons, a decrease of 154,000 tons, or 11%, from the preceding week. When compared with the production in the corresponding week of 1943 there was a decrease of 42,000 tons, or 3.3%. The calendar year to date shows an increase of 6.5% when compared with the corresponding period of 1943.

The Bureau of Mines also reported that the estimated production of byproduct coke in the United States showed an increase of 22,300 tons when compared with the output for the week ended March 4, 1944. The quantity of coke from beehive ovens decreased 1,700 tons during the same period.

ESTIMATED UNITED STATES PRODUCTION OF COAL, IN NET TONS

Bituminous coal and lignite—	Week Ended— March 11, 1944	March 4, 1944	March 13 1943	January 1 to Date— *March 11, 1944	March 13, 1943	March 13, 1937
Total, incl. mine fuel	12,210,000	12,050,000	12,523,000	126,735,000	121,714,000	106,774,000
Daily average	2,035,000	2,008,000	2,087,000	2,088,000	1,995,000	1,753,000

*Subject to current adjustment.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE AND COKE

(In Net Tons)

Penn. anthracite—	Week Ended— §March 11, 1944	¶March 4, 1944	March 13, 1943	Calendar Year to Date— March 11, 1944	March 13, 1943	March 16, 1929
*Total incl. coll. fuel	1,250,000	1,404,000	1,292,000	12,944,000	12,154,000	16,189,000
†Commercial produc.	1,200,000	1,348,000	1,240,000	12,427,000	11,668,000	15,023,000
Byproduct coke— United States total	1,284,000	1,261,700	1,227,800	12,937,000	12,526,500	‡
Beehive coke— United States total	147,700	149,400	165,500	1,589,000	1,614,500	1,303,300

*Includes washery and dredge coal, and coal shipped by truck from authorized operation. †Excludes colliery fuel. ‡Comparable data not available. §Subject to revision. ¶Revised.

ESTIMATED WEEKLY PRODUCTION OF COAL, BY STATES

(In net tons)

(The current weekly estimates are based on railroad carloadings and river shipments and are subject to revision on receipt of monthly tonnage reports from district and State sources or of final annual returns from the operators.)

State—	Week Ended— March 4, 1944	February 26, 1944	March 6, 1943	March 6, 1937
Alabama	390,000	393,000	362,000	305,000
Alaska	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,000
Arkansas and Oklahoma	88,000	93,000	102,000	60,000
Colorado	176,000	180,000	191,000	177,000
Georgia and North Carolina	1,000	1,000	*	1,000
Illinois	1,548,000	1,568,000	1,538,000	1,501,000
Indiana	545,000	574,000	515,000	517,000
Iowa	55,000	50,000	73,000	117,000
Kansas and Missouri	178,000	183,000	189,000	188,000
Kentucky—Eastern	905,000	992,000	964,000	865,000
Kentucky—Western	336,000	365,000	334,000	269,000
Maryland	35,000	37,000	40,000	38,000
Michigan	7,000	8,000	3,000	18,000
Montana (bitum. & lignite)	109,000	87,000	83,000	70,000
New Mexico	34,000	38,000	38,000	40,000
North & South Dakota (lignite)	55,000	60,000	50,000	52,000
Ohio	655,000	660,000	663,000	651,000
Pennsylvania (bituminous)	2,928,000	2,977,000	2,858,000	2,817,000
Tennessee	161,000	165,000	153,000	116,000
Texas (bituminous & lignite)	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000
Utah	136,000	144,000	120,000	110,000
Virginia	387,000	423,000	402,000	325,000
Washington	28,000	26,000	42,000	43,000
†West Virginia—Southern	2,166,000	2,322,000	2,381,000	2,049,000
‡West Virginia—Northern	936,000	1,009,000	954,000	753,000
Wyoming	182,000	211,000	193,000	141,000
§Other Western States	1,000	1,000	*	*
Total bituminous & lignite	12,050,000	12,575,000	12,256,000	11,240,000
¶Pennsylvania anthracite	1,404,000	1,346,000	1,243,000	689,000
Total, all coal	13,454,000	13,921,000	13,499,000	11,929,000

†Includes operations on the N. & W.; C. & O.; Virginian; K. & M.; B. C. & G.; and on the B. & O. in Kanawha, Mason and Clay counties. ‡Rest of State, including the Panhandle District and Grant, Mineral and Tucker counties. §Includes Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada and Oregon. ¶Data for Pennsylvania anthracite from published records of the Bureau of Mines. *Less than 1,000 tons.

Non-Ferrous Metals – Copper Deliveries To Continue At High Level Throughout April

"E. & M. J. Metal and Mineral Markets," in its issue of March 16, stated:

"Activity in copper last week continued at a high rate, and the current month is expected to establish a new record in deliveries. Demand at present is for April shipment metal. Buying of lead was in good volume. Stocks of slab zinc at the end of February increased to 210,683 tons, which compares with 98,012 tons in February last year. Clean-up operations at some properties accounted for an increase in production of quicksilver during January. Output of quicksilver since January has been falling, owing to the decline in prices. Indium producers lowered quotations last week to broaden the market for the metal. The publication further goes on to say in part:

Copper

Most producers have been earmarking April copper in volume, even though few allocation certificates have been received as yet by consumers. However, fabricators know that April consumption of copper will be high, and they have been asking for metal at a rate that points to above-average consumption for next month.

The February copper statistics confirmed reports that deliveries for that month approached 125,000 tons.

Kennecott produced 637,188 tons of copper in 1943, against 632,380 tons in 1942. Phelps Dodge properties produced 239,159 tons in 1943, against 223,469 tons in 1942.

Lead

With the date near at hand for determining tonnages of foreign lead that will be called upon to round out consumers' April deliveries, buying in the domestic market last week was in good volume, sales involving 10,802 tons. April requirements at present are more than 50% covered. Actual consumption of lead during April is expected to be a little larger in volume than that of March, the trade believes. Buying interest in antimonial lead has increased. Price developments in lead were lacking.

Zinc

The February statistics of the Zinc Institute were about in line with expectations, in that stocks on hand increased from 194,095 tons at the end of January to 210,683 tons a month later. In spite of the growing reserves of metal, production was maintained at the highest daily rate on record. Stocks of zinc are expected to increase during March, in spite of some improvement in consumption.

Production of zinc during February amounted to 79,927 tons, against 84,066 tons in January, the American Zinc Institute reports. Though the tonnage produced during February was smaller than that of January, the daily rate of 2,756 tons was the largest on record. The daily rate for all of 1943 averaged 2,663 tons.

Indium

To stimulate consumption, prices named for indium were lowered by leading factors last week. The American Smelting & Refining Co. now quotes $8.50 per troy ounce for electrolytic 99.9% indium, against a previous selling basis of $10. The Indium Corp. of America lists electrolytic, 99.9 plus, at $12.50 per troy ounce; with commercial 99.9, at $7.50; and indium trichloride at $4.40.

Though indium is a "precious metal" its use is slowly expanding. Chief use at present is in plating bearings.

Tin

The tin content of solder for use in the production of automobile radiators will be increased, WPB officials stated, following a meeting of the Automotive Radiator Industry Advisory Committee. The industry requested a higher percentage of tin to speed up production and improve the quality of the product. Exact percentage increases will be announced after the subject has been given further study.

Electrolytic tinplate will be used in producing a substantial number of cans for packing beer for the armed forces.

Quotations for tin were unchanged. Straits quality tin for shipment, in cents a pound, was as follows:

	March	April	May
March 9	52.000	52.000	52.000
March 10	52.000	52.000	52.000
March 11	52.000	52.000	52.000
March 13	52.000	52.000	52.000
March 14	52.000	52.000	52.000
March 15	52.000	52.000	52.000

Chinese, or 99% tin, continued at 51.125¢ all week.

Magnesium

The Truman Committee of the Senate reported last week that 1944 output of magnesium will provide a surplus for production of some civilian items. The production schedules will be cut, according to the committee, owing to a decrease in use of the metal for incendiary bombs and aircraft. Dow Chemical was given credit for meeting the bulk of the country's magnesium requirements.

Dr. Williard H. Dow, President of the Dow Chemical Co., told the committee that the Department of Justice had falsely linked his company with a German cartel and that his company had produced huge amounts of magnesium for the war "in spite of and not because of the Government."

Quicksilver

January quicksilver statistics released yesterday by the Bureau of Mines placed production at 4,400 flasks, against 4,200 flasks in December and 4,200 flasks in January last year. Consumption for January was 3,400 flasks, against 3,200 flasks in December and 4,500 flasks in January last year.

Quotations in New York continued at $130 to $135 per flask, with the undertone no more than steady. Demand was quiet.

Silver

Conditions governing the silver market have not changed. The London market was quiet and steady at 23½d. The New York Official for foreign silver was unchanged at 44¾c, with domestic at 70⅝¢.

Production of silver by domestic refineries during January totaled 11,147,000 oz., of which 3,298,000 oz. was obtained from domestic sources and 7,849,000 oz. from foreign countries, according to the American Bureau of Metal Statistics. This compares with a total of 7,846,000 oz. in January last year, of which 3,807,000 oz. was domestic silver and 4,039,000 oz. foreign.

Daily Prices

The daily price of electrolytic copper (domestic and export refinery), lead, zinc and Straits tin were unchanged from those appearing in the "Commercial and Financial Chronicle" of July 31, 1942, page 380.

Lumber Movement—Week Ended March 11, 1944

According to the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, lumber shipments of 514 mills reporting to the National Lumber Trade Barometer were 4.8% above production for the week ended March 11, 1944. In the same week new orders of these mills were 14.8% greater than production. Unfilled order files of the reporting mills amounted to 121% of stocks. For reporting softwood mills, unfilled orders are equivalent to 40 days' production at the current rate, and gross stocks are equivalent to 33 days' production.

For the year to date, shipments of reporting identical mills exceeded production by 7.4%; orders by 14.7%.

Compared to the average corresponding week of 1935-39, production of reporting mills was 38.5% greater; shipments were 33.7% greater; and orders were 40.1% greater.

Daily Average Crude Oil Production For Week Ended Mar. 11, 1944 Decreased 31,550 Barrels

The American Petroleum Institute estimates that the daily average gross crude oil petroleum for the week ended March 11, 1944 was 4,381,175 barrels, a decline of 31,550 barrels from the preceding week. It was, however, 503,875 barrels per day in excess of that recorded for the corresponding period of last year and 12,875 barrels per day more than the daily average figure recommended by the Petroleum Administration for War for the month of March, 1944. Daily output for the four weeks ended March 11, 1944 averaged 4,400,400 barrels. Further details as reported by the Institute follow:

Reports received from refining companies indicate that the industry as a whole ran to stills on a Bureau of Mines basis approximately 4,387,000 barrels of crude oil daily and produced 13,068,000 barrels of gasoline; 1,652,000 barrels of kerosine; 4,243,000 barrels of distillate fuel oil, and 8,796,000 barrels of residual fuel oil during the week ended March 11, 1944; and had in storage at the end of that week 86,559,000 barrels of gasoline; 6,851,000 barrels of kerosene; 32,705,000 barrels of distillate fuel, and 51,362,000 barrels of residual fuel oil. The above figures apply to the country as a whole, and do not reflect conditions on the East Coast.

DAILY AVERAGE CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION (FIGURES IN BARRELS)

	*P. A. W. Recommendations March	*State Allowables Begin. Mar. 1	Actual Production Week Ended Mar. 11, 1944	Change from Previous Week	4 Weeks Ended Mar. 11, 1944	Week Ended Mar. 13, 1943
Oklahoma	328,000	327,000	†328,300	— 700	326,450	327,200
Kansas	285,000	269,400	†259,500	—13,300	270,000	286,900
Nebraska	1,000	----	†1,300	----	1,250	1,850
Panhandle Texas			92,850	— 3,900	98,400	88,600
North Texas			142,600	+ 1,150	141,000	136,150
West Texas			340,900	— 8,250	353,500	218,000
East Central Texas			116,600	— 100	115,100	99,800
East Texas			365,100	—10,900	380,550	323,400
Southwest Texas			291,500	+ 950	289,650	172,400
Coastal Texas			513,800	— 1,200	515,500	354,200
Total Texas	1,838,000	‡1,854,302	1,863,350	—22,250	1,893,700	1,392,550
North Louisiana			76,550	+ 50	76,600	89,150
Coastal Louisiana			283,950	+ 300	283,450	250,600
Total Louisiana	347,700	372,700	360,500	+ 350	360,050	339,750
Arkansas	76,700	78,591	79,300	----	79,050	70,800
Mississippi	46,000		42,950	— 650	43,100	53,850
Alabama			25	----	----	----
Florida			50	----	50	----
Illinois	215,000		226,900	+ 8,600	215,800	251,900
Indiana	13,600		15,300	+ 2,200	13,500	14,900
Eastern— (Not incl. Ill., Ind., Ky.)	72,200		68,650	— 6,150	71,100	75,850
Kentucky	24,000		24,950	+ 1,900	21,900	17,000
Michigan	52,000		53,500	+ 1,000	52,900	61,100
Wyoming	93,000		92,500	— 600	93,700	87,100
Montana	24,000		20,800	----	20,850	17,800
Colorado	7,000		7,700	— 550	7,550	6,750
New Mexico	111,700	111,700	112,900	----	112,900	92,400
Total East of Calif.	3,534,900		3,558,475	—28,750	3,583,850	3,097,700
California	833,400	§833,400	822,700	— 2,800	816,550	779,600
Total United States	4,368,300		4,381,175	—31,550	4,400,400	3,877,300

*P.A.W. recommendations and state allowables, as shown above, represent the production of crude oil only, and do not include amounts of condensate and natural gas derivatives to be produced.

†Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska figures are for week ended 7:00 a.m. March 9, 1944.

‡This is the net basic allowable as of March 1 calculated on a 31-day basis and includes shutdowns and exemptions for the entire month. With the exception of several fields which were exempted entirely and of certain other fields for which shutdowns were ordered for from 3 to 20 days, the entire state was ordered shut down for 8 days, no definite dates during the month being specified; operators only being required to shut down as best suits their operating schedules or labor needed to operate leases, a total equivalent to 8 days shutdown time during the calendar month. §Recommendation of Conservation Committee of California Oil Producers.

CRUDE RUNS TO STILLS; PRODUCTION OF GASOLINE; STOCKS OF FINISHED AND UNFINISHED GASOLINE, GAS OIL AND DISTILLATE FUEL AND

RESIDUAL FUEL OIL, WEEK ENDED MARCH 11, 1944

(Figures in Thousands of barrels of 42 Gallons Each)

Figures in this section include reported totals plus an estimate of unreported amounts and are ——therefore on a Bureau of Mines basis——

District—	Daily Refining Capacity Potential Rate	Daily Refining Capacity % Reporting	Crude Runs to Stills Daily Average	Crude Runs to Stills % Operated	§Gasoline Production at Refineries Includ. Natural Blended	‡Stocks Finished and Unfinished Gasoline	‡Stocks of Gas Oil and Distillate Fuel Oil	‡Stocks of Residual Fuel Oil
*Combin'd: East Coast Texas Gulf, Louisiana Gulf, North Louisiana-Arkansas, and inland Texas	2,448	90.0	2,226	90.9	6,242	37,556	14,741	15,528
Appalachian—								
District No. 1	130	83.9	97	74.6	261	2,118	1,073	180
District No. 2	47	87.2	50	106.4	162	1,242	370	186
Ind., Ill., Ky.	824	85.2	754	91.5	2,675	19,753	5,749	2,872
Okla., Kans., Mo.	416	80.1	344	82.7	1,212	8,391	1,528	1,262
Rocky Mountain—								
District No. 3	8	26.9	11	137.5	29	81	21	31
District No. 4	141	58.3	88	62.4	273	2,077	343	510
California	817	89.9	817	100.0	2,214	15,341	8,880	30,793
Total U. S. B. of M. basis March 11, 1944	4,831	87.1	4,387	90.8	13,068	†86,559	32,705	51,362
Total U. S. B. of M. basis March 4, 1944	4,831	87.1	4,344	89.9	13,267	86,091	33,145	51,175
U. S. Bur. of Mines basis March 13, 1943			3,546		10,038	94,280	34,427	68,455

*At the request of the Petroleum Administration for War. †Finished, 75,544,000 barrels; unfinished, 11,015,000 barrels. ‡At refineries, at bulk terminals, in transit and in pipe lines. §Not including 1,652,000 barrels of kerosine, 4,243,000 barrels of gas oil and distillate fuel and 8,796,000 barrels of residual fuel oil produced during the week ended March 11, 1944, which compares with 1,351,000 barrels, 4,513,000 barrels and 8,590,000 barrels, respectively, in the preceding week and 1,428,000 barrels, 4,013,000 barrels and 6,984,000 barrels, respectively in the week ended March 13, 1943.

Note—Stocks of kerosine at March 11, 1944 amounted to 6,851,000 barrels, as against 7,013,000 barrels a week earlier and 5,526,000 barrels a year before.

Fractional Gain In Retail Prices Fairchild Retail Price Index Shows

The Fairchild Retail Price Index gained 0.1% during the last month, it was announced on March 15 by the Fairchild Publications, which stated that this is the first time since the General Maximum Price Regulation was put into effect in March, 1942, that the index advanced for three consecutive months. After remaining unchanged for eight months, the index gained 0.1% in December. Since then the index increased 0.1% in January and showed the same fractional gain for February. As compared with the index of March, 1943, the present index shows an increase of 0.3%. The advices from the Fairchild Publications further state:

"Chiefly, this latest advance is due to increases in women's apparel and home furnishings. As compared with last month women's apparel gained 0.1%, and 1.0% as compared with March of last year. Home furnishings, which had remained constant throughout the year, increased 0.1%. The composite index shows an advance of 27.6% over the pre-war low, with the major differences occurring in piece goods 33.6%, women's apparel, 28.0%, and home furnishings, 27.9% above the pre-war low. Infants' wear has increased the least of all, 12.8% above the low of 1939-1940.

"Revisions on the price of women's rayon hosiery provided for by MPR 339, which some stores put into effect in January and others in February, caused the modest gain in women's wear; furs, which have risen steadily since April, 1943, continued to gain slightly. Furniture gained fractionally, 0.2% above last month and last year. A further slight advance is likely in the index, because of OPA granting higher prices for one or two additional items. However, it is not expected that these will be great enough to warrant any marked fluctuations according to A. W. Zelomek, economist, under whose supervision this index is compiled."

THE FAIRCHILD PUBLICATIONS RETAIL PRICE INDEX

JAN. 3, 1931=100

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	May 1, 1933	Mar. 1, 1943	Dec. 1, 1943	Jan. 1, 1944	Feb. 1, 1944	Mar. 1, 1944
Composite Index	69.4	113.1	113.1	113.2	113.3	113.4
Piece Goods	65.1	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Men's Apparel	70.7	105.3	105.3	105.4	105.3	105.3
Women's Apparel	71.8	112.6	113.2	113.3	113.6	113.7
Infants' Wear	76.4	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.2	108.2
Home Furnishings	70.2	115.5	115.5	115.5	115.5	115.6
Piece Goods						
Silks	57.4	84.7	84.7	84.7	84.7	84.7
Woolens	69.2	108.0	108.0	108.0	108.0	108.1
Cotton Wash Goods	68.6	143.8	143.8	143.8	143.8	143.8
Domestics						
Sheets	65.0	126.8	126.8	126.8	126.8	126.8
Blankets & Comfortables	72.9	135.0	135.0	134.9	134.9	134.9
Women's Apparel						
Hosiery	59.2	94.1	89.2	89.2	90.1	90.4
Aprons & House Dresses	75.5	140.5	140.5	140.5	140.5	140.5
Corsets & Brassieres	83.6	111.2	111.2	111.2	111.2	111.2
Furs	66.8	134.6	143.0	144.2	144.3	144.5
Underwear	69.2	102.7	102.7	102.7	102.9	102.9
Shoes	76.5	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4
Men's Apparel						
Hosiery	64.9	108.0	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1
Underwear	69.6	114.8	114.8	114.8	114.8	114.8
Hats & Caps	69.7	94.3	94.3	94.3	94.3	94.3
Clothing incl. Overalls	70.1	106.0	106.0	106.0	105.9	105.9
Shoes	76.3	109.6	109.6	109.6	109.6	109.6
Shirts & Neckwear	74.3	99.1	99.1	99.3	99.3	99.3
Infant's Wear						
Socks	74.0	114.5	114.6	114.6	114.9	114.9
Underwear	74.3	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7
Shoes	80.9	106.0	106.0	106.0	106.0	106.0
Furniture	69.4	129.2	129.2	129.2	129.2	129.4
Floor Coverings	79.9	146.8	146.9	146.9	146.9	146.9
Radios	50.6	66.8	66.8	66.8	66.8	66.8
Luggage	60.1	94.7	94.7	94.7	94.9	94.9
Electrical Household Appliances	72.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5
China	81.5	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6

Note—Composite Index is a weighted aggregate. Major group indexes are arithmetic averages of subgroups. *Revised.

Civil Engineering Construction $29,415,000 For Week

Civil engineering construction volume in continental United States totals $29,415,000 for the week. This volume, not including the construction by military engineers abroad, American contracts outside the country, and shipbuilding, is 34% lower than in the preceding week, and is 47% below the volume reported to "Engineering News-Record" for the corresponding 1943 week. The report made public on March 16, went on to say:

Private construction is 70% below last week, and 3% under last year. Public work is down 17 and 51%, respectively, compared with a week ago and a year ago.

The current week's volume brings 1944 construction to $387,801,000 for the 11 weeks of the year, a decrease of 49% from the $764,911,000 reported for the period in 1943. Private construction, $84,854,000, is 28% above last year, but public construction, $302,947,000, is 57% lower as a result of the 59% decline in Federal work.

Civil engineering construction volumes for the 1943 week, last week, and the current week are:

	Mar. 18, '43	Mar. 9, '44	Mar. 16, '44
Total U. S. Construction	$55,634,000	$44,579,000	$29,415,000
Private Construction	4,444,000	14,335,000	4,304,000
Public Construction	51,190,000	30,244,000	25,111,000
State and Municipal	1,914,000	1,592,000	2,874,000
Federal	49,276,000	28,652,000	22,237,000

In the classified construction groups, gains over last week are in waterworks, sewerage, bridges, industrial buildings, streets and roads, and unclassified construction. Increases over the 1943 week are in waterworks, sewerage, and industrial buildings. Subtotals for the week in each class of construction are: waterworks, $581,000; sewerage, $745,000; bridges, $80,000; industrial buildings, $2,791,000; commercial buildings, $940,000; public buildings, $12,102,000; earthwork and drainage, $91,000; streets and roads, $2,188,000; and unclassified construction, $9,897,000.

New capital for construction purposes for the week totals $1,328,000, an increase of 140% over the corresponding week last year. The week's new financing is made up of $1,128,000 in State and municipal bond sales, and $200,000 in RFC loans for public improvements. New construction financing for 1944 to date, $175,189,000, is 196% higher than for the opening 11 weeks of 1943.

30-Hour Week Derided By Johnston, Kaiser

Eric A. Johnston, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and Henry J. Kaiser derided the feasability and desirability of a 30-hour week in post-war industry advanced by Walter P. Reuther, Vice-President of the United Auto Workers, a CIO affiliate; this was disclosed in the New York "Times" of March 17, which added:

"The three speakers were discussing the topic, "Conversion Without Depression," at a meeting that was one of a series arranged under the auspices of The Times on the general theme, "America Plans and Dreams." Arthur Krock, Chief Washington Correspondent of The Times, presided over the meeting, which included a panel discussion and a question and answer period. The first part of the meeting was broadcast over Station WMCA.

"Mr. Reuther precipitated the debate about a 30-hour week by contending, in his prepared speech at the opening of the evening, that our tremendous technical progress must be utilized "for democracy and jobs, not for reaction and unemployment." He maintained that by utilizing our full productive potential, a 30-hour week could easily be the productive equivalent of the pre-war 40-hour week.

"This assumption was pounced upon sharply by Mr. Johnston, supported in a semi-humorous vein by Mr. Kaiser. Mr. Johnston declared that the only way wealth could be created was through production, and that he did not believe it would be possible to continue to raise the standard of living with a 30-hour week.

"'If you carry Mr. Reuther's proposal to its absurd conclusion, no one should work at all and then everyone would be rich,' Mr. Johnston observed.

"In reply Mr. Reuther asserted that the United States enjoys a much higher standard of living now on a 40-hour week than it did 25 or 50 years ago when the common working day was 10 or 12 hours. He said that the difference was attributable to technological progress, which he contended would continue to make it possible to improve living standards and at the same time to decrease the work week.

"Mr. Kaiser drew laughter from the audience by remarking that 'Mrs. Kaiser would agree with Walter—she'd be happy if I would work only 30 hours in two days.' He declared that most of the men who worked for him wanted many things that could be created only by increased production.

"'Most of us will want to work more than 30 hours a week, Walter,' the ship builder continued, adding that he suspected that Mr. Reuther's advocacy of a Peace Production Board might be undermined if the labor leader could only accompany him on one of his visits to Washington."

Retail Store Display Competition Announced

The Sales Promotion Division of the National Retail Dry Goods Association, is sponsoring an open competition for the best display campaign used by retail stores during the year 1943. In making known the competition Llewellyn Harries, Manager of the Division, said that the price will be a large bronze plaque, inscribed to the winner. This contest will be featured at the Sales Promotion Clinic, scheduled for April 4, 5 and 6, at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, in Cincinnati. Wednesday, April 5, will be devoted exclusively to display, both window and interior, and the developing problems that involve both.

Revenue Freight Car Loadings During Week Ended March 11, 1944 Decreased 6,722 Cars

Loading of revenue freight for the week ended March 11, 1944, totaled 781,533 cars, the Association of American Railroads announced on March 16. This was an increase above the corresponding week of 1943 of 12,488 cars, or 1.6%, but a decrease below the same week in 1942 of 17,823 cars or 2.2%.

Loading of revenue freight for the week of March 11 decreased 6,722 cars, or 0.9% below the preceding week.

Miscellaneous freight loading totaled 373,013 cars, a decrease of 2,964 cars below the preceding week, but an increase of 12,123 cars above the corresponding week in 1943.

Loading of merchandise less than carload lot freight totaled 104,138 cars, a decrease of 773 cars below the preceding week, but an increase of 7,508 cars above the corresponding week in 1943.

Coal loading amounted to 172,476 cars, a decrease of 9 cars below the preceding week, and a decrease of 6,005 cars below the corresponding week in 1943.

Grain and grain products loading totaled 45,556 cars, a decrease of 2,725 cars below the preceding week and a decrease of 3,043 cars below the corresponding week in 1943. In the Western Districts alone, grain and grain products loading for the week of March 11 totaled 30,187 cars, a decrease of 2,024 cars below the preceding week and a decrease of 4,266 cars below the corresponding week in 1943.

Live stock loading amounted to 14,257 cars, a decrease of 802 cars below the preceding week, but an increase of 1,753 cars above the corresponding week in 1943. In the Western Districts alone loading of live stock for the week of March 11, totaled 10,157 cars, a decrease of 691 cars below the preceding week, but an increase of 701 cars above the corresponding week in 1943.

Forest products loading totaled 43,937 cars, an increase of 753 cars above the preceding week and an increase of 1,629 cars above the corresponding week in 1943.

Ore loading amounted to 13,241 cars, a decrease of 234 cars before the preceding week and a decrease of 1,571 cars below the corresponding week in 1943.

Coke loading amounted to 14,915 cars, an increase of 32 cars above the preceding week, and an increase of 94 cars above the corresponding week in 1943.

All districts reported increases compared with the corresponding week in 1943 except the Pocahontas. All districts reported increases compared with 1942 except the Eastern, Allegheny, Southern, and Northwestern.

	1944	1943	1942
5 Weeks of January	3,796,477	3,531,811	3,858,479
4 weeks of February	3,159,492	3,055,725	3,122,942
Week of March 4	788,255	748,926	770,485
Week of March 11	781,533	769,045	799,356
Total	8,525,757	8,105,507	8,551,262

The following table is a summary of the freight carloadings for the separate railroads and systems for the week ended March 11, 1944. During the period 71 roads showed increases when compared with the corresponding week a year ago.

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADED AND RECEIVED FROM CONNECTIONS
(NUMBER OF CARS) WEEK ENDED MARCH 11

Railroads	Total Revenue Freight Loaded			Total Loads Received from Connections	
	1944	1943	1942	1944	1943
Eastern District—					
Ann Arbor	241	252	592	1,575	1,466
Bangor & Aroostook	2,705	2,382	2,236	287	206
Boston & Maine	6,931	6,289	7,979	15,821	14,591
Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville	1,385	1,329	1,584	2,230	2,086
Central Indiana	17	47	27	46	87
Central Vermont	1,054	856	1,338	2,863	1,879
Delaware & Hudson	5,572	6,137	6,665	14,149	12,278
Delaware, Lackawanna & Western	7,393	7,591	8,747	11,480	10,979
Detroit & Mackinac	225	207	232	101	134
Detroit, Toledo & Ironton	1,806	1,767	2,180	1,639	1,741
Detroit & Toledo Shore Line	315	303	398	3,539	3,704
Erie	13,142	12,982	13,879	18,753	18,980
Grand Trunk Western	3,776	3,233	4,467	9,551	9,012
Lehigh & Hudson River	183	204	228	3,347	3,298
Lehigh & New England	1,818	1,843	1,871	1,579	1,928
Lehigh Valley	8,411	6,955	9,043	16,255	12,168
Maine Central	2,455	2,443	2,952	4,092	4,137
Monongahela	6,087	6,416	6,518	345	377
Montour	2,595	2,478	2,115	20	19
New York Central Lines	46,320	48,174	46,122	56,122	54,674
N. Y., N. H. & Hartford	10,242	9,868	12,294	21,230	19,823
New York, Ontario & Western	1,118	902	1,144	3,527	2,194
New York, Chicago & St. Louis	6,372	6,359	7,173	17,569	17,014
N. Y., Susquehanna & Western	475	459	549	2,725	2,471
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie	7,837	7,785	8,301	8,265	8,325
Pere Marquette	4,751	4,424	4,979	8,413	[illegible]
Pittsburg & Shawmut	761	749	552	8	13
Pittsburg, Shawmut & North	335	352	435	228	287
Pittsburgh & West Virginia	969	801	770	2,078	3,004
Rutland	364	317	551	1,185	815
Wabash	5,735	5,300	5,937	12,586	13,146
Wheeling & Lake Erie	4,429	4,847	4,881	4,368	6,280
Total	155,820	154,051	166,739	246,576	235,842
Allegheny District—					
Akron, Canton & Youngstown	737	692	656	1,275	1,344
Baltimore & Ohio	41,686	38,970	40,766	29,247	28,389
Bessemer & Lake Erie	2,774	3,233	3,320	1,315	1,299
Buffalo Creek & Gauley	314	302	293	3	5
Cambria & Indiana	1,687	1,961	1,968	9	16
Central R. R. of New Jersey	6,964	6,934	7,919	21,440	20,790
Cornwall	579	573	18	64	89
Cumberland & Pennsylvania	206	258	287	12	8
Ligonier Valley	121	136	119	30	39
Long Island	1,155	916	845	3,959	3,981
Penn-Reading Seashore Lines	1,537	1,675	1,773	2,346	2,528
Pennsylvania System	76,239	73,428	78,396	66,041	61,654
Reading Co.	15,267	14,673	15,456	30,288	30,903
Union (Pittsburgh)	20,461	20,283	20,139	3,667	4,622
Western Maryland	4,087	4,010	4,048	13,740	13,976
Total	173,814	168,044	176,003	173,436	169,643
Pocahontas District—					
Chesapeake & Ohio	28,481	30,031	25,858	11,951	12,994
Norfolk & Western	21,613	23,767	22,797	7,506	7,729
Virginian	4,557	4,585	4,726	2,483	2,488
Total	54,651	58,383	53,381	21,940	23,211
Southern District—					
Alabama, Tennessee & Northern	356	293	345	383	359
Atl. & W. P.—W. R. R. of Ala.	912	799	946	2,376	2,479
Atlanta, Birmingham & Coast	711	673	835	1,474	1,539
Atlantic Coast Line	13,867	15,337	14,308	10,727	11,613
Central of Georgia	4,133	4,730	4,620	5,204	4,812
Charleston & Western Carolina	382	439	431	1,953	1,713
Clinchfield	1,651	1,781	1,609	3,325	3,146
Columbus & Greenville	267	306	274	247	202
Durham & Southern	118	144	182	743	686
Florida East Coast	3,634	4,027	2,690	2,029	1,654
Gainesville Midland	52	46	45	159	115
Georgia	1,340	1,414	1,515	2,762	2,721
Georgia & Florida	367	357	454	720	666
Gulf, Mobile & Ohio	4,097	3,588	4,315	4,327	6,484
Illinois Central System	28,490	26,486	28,885	18,195	19,957
Louisville & Nashville	24,831	25,039	24,865	12,487	11,733
Macon, Dublin & Savannah	202	193	204	927	931
Mississippi Central	296	247	223	743	417
Nashville, Chattanooga & St. L.	3,362	3,000	3,972	4,696	4,973
Norfolk Southern	886	1,166	1,228	1,686	1,555
Piedmont Northern	416	349	522	1,283	1,197
Richmond, Fred. & Potomac	415	360	457	11,508	10,766
Seaboard Air Line	10,818	10,539	11,258	9,196	9,644
Southern System	23,297	22,473	25,453	25,606	24,346
Tennessee Central	627	437	620	986	1,077
Winston-Salem Southbound	144	127	163	1,067	1,012
Total	125,671	124,350	130,419	124,809	125,799
Northwestern District—					
Chicago & North Western	14,350	13,908	17,342	14,378	12,578
Chicago Great Western	2,152	2,420	2,834	3,433	3,291
Chicago, Milw., St. P. & Pac.	19,701	19,778	21,511	10,260	10,617
Chicago, St. Paul, Minn. & Omaha	3,425	3,306	4,163	3,963	4,023
Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range	1,101	1,306	1,353	255	280
Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic	738	601	717	565	534
Elgin, Joliet & Eastern	8,388	8,660	10,008	13,187	12,233
Ft. Dodge, Des Moines & South	251	372	596	69	109
Great Northern	11,259	11,406	11,783	5,468	5,375
Green Bay & Western	*457	480	512	*955	824
Lake Superior & Ishpeming	275	207	260	61	50
Minneapolis & St. Louis	*2,121	2,110	2,482	*2,401	2,193
Minn., St. Paul & S. S. M.	5,131	4,525	5,412	3,370	3,142
Northern Pacific	9,493	9,685	10,410	5,307	4,642
Spokane International	*84	93	103	*569	394
Spokane, Portland & Seattle	2,353	2,031	2,736	2,831	3,527
Total	81,279	80,888	92,222	67,072	63,812
Central Western District—					
Atch., Top. & Santa Fe System	21,271	20,420	22,146	11,594	11,968
Alton	2,908	2,818	3,531	4,234	3,930
Bingham & Garfield	384	506	786	114	132
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy	18,157	18,420	16,019	12,268	12,193
Chicago & Illinois Midland	2,870	3,104	2,853	675	864
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific	11,610	11,728	12,006	13,239	13,363
Chicago & Eastern Illinois	2,673	2,339	2,673	6,140	4,774
Colorado & Southern	761	817	843	2,107	1,970
Denver & Rio Grande Western	3,403	3,375	3,149	6,609	5,384
Denver & Salt Lake	746	824	505	5	15
Fort Worth & Denver City	819	999	1,120	1,505	1,550
Illinois Terminal	2,199	1,527	2,174	2,033	1,630
Missouri-Illinois	964	873	1,197	588	546
Nevada Northern	1,864	2,091	1,913	131	118
North Western Pacific	754	888	914	865	640
Peoria & Pekin Union	16	10	20	0	0
Southern Pacific (Pacific)	30,087	26,501	27,384	14,820	12,960
Toledo, Peoria & Western	402	333	254	2,240	1,704
Union Pacific System	15,657	14,245	15,534	15,717	13,169
Utah	660	599	529	10	1
Western Pacific	1,741	2,088	1,606	4,089	3,271
Total	119,946	114,505	117,156	98,983	90,182
Southwestern District—					
Burlington-Rock Island	453	729	683	271	184
Gulf Coast Lines	7,443	5,733	5,178	2,798	2,190
International-Great Northern	1,926	1,932	2,156	4,144	3,247
Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf	216	306	316	1,206	1,626
Kansas City Southern	5,483	4,314	3,711	2,844	2,652
Louisiana & Arkansas	2,913	3,301	2,707	2,889	2,482
Litchfield & Madison	313	367	417	1,224	1,207
Midland Valley	669	705	498	501	342
Missouri & Arkansas	178	146	226	472	493
Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines	5,758	6,019	5,240	4,679	6,356
Missouri Pacific	15,628	15,519	15,523	20,713	17,053
Quanah Acme & Pacific	137	333	198	282	263
St. Louis-San Francisco	8,220	8,255	8,783	9,453	8,873
St. Louis Southwestern	2,885	2,838	3,302	6,647	5,362
Texas & New Orleans	12,744	14,043	10,051	5,635	5,476
Texas & Pacific	5,285	4,162	4,282	8,087	6,396
Weatherford M. W. & N. W.	*79	98	150	*35	35
Wichita Falls & Southern	22	24	15	19	75
Total	70,352	68,824	63,436	71,899	64,312

*Previous week's figures.

Note—Previous year's figures revised.

Weekly Statistics Of Paperboard Industry

We give herewith latest figures received by us from the National Paperboard Association, Chicago, Ill., in relation to activity in the paperboard industry.

The members of this Association represent 83% of the total industry, and its program includes a statement each week from each member of the orders and production, and also a figure which indicates the activity of the mill based on the time operated. These figures are advanced to equal 100%, so that they represent the total industry.

STATISTICAL REPORTS—ORDERS, PRODUCTION, MILL ACTIVITY

Period 1943—Week Ended	Orders Received Tons	Production Tons	Unfilled Orders Remaining Tons	Percent of Activity	
				Current	Cumulative
Dec. 4	177,664	149,803	602,789	95	93
Dec. 11	146,662	148,826	600,323	96	93
Dec. 18	139,654	148,431	589,659	96	93
Dec. 25	119,487	136,120	569,689	87	93
1944—					
Jan. 1	121,212	92,328	589,815	63	93
Jan. 8	160,567	138,381	612,043	86	86
Jan. 15	153,097	146,596	614,215	93	90
Jan. 22	131,940	140,457	602,930	93	91
Jan. 29	145,735	147,423	597,011	95	92
Feb. 5	185,069	151,102	628,048	97	93
Feb. 12	154,797	151,870	630,449	97	94
Feb. 19	130,252	148,533	609,429	96	94
Feb. 26	151,980	139,044	621,875	93	94
March 4	178,375	146,926	650,606	95	94
March 11	152,627	144,761	655,682	95	94

Notes—Unfilled orders of the prior week, plus orders received, less production, do not necessarily equal the unfilled orders at the close. Compensation for delinquent reports, orders made for or filled from stock, and other items made necessary adjustments of unfilled orders.

Zarker On Faculty Of School Of Banking

Harold Eugene Zarker, Treasurer and General Manager of the Princeton Bank & Trust Co. of Princeton, N. J., has been appointed to the faculty of The Graduate School of Banking, institution for advanced banking studies conducted by the American Bankers Association at Rutgers University, it is announced by Dr. Harold Stonier, Executive Manager of the ABA, who is director of the school. Mr. Zarker, who will lecture on commercial banking at the G. S. B., entered the banking business in 1932 with the Fulton National Bank of Lancaster, Lancaster, Pa., and was Comptroller of that institution until 1938, when he joined the staff of the Princeton Bank & Trust Co., with which bank he is now connected.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Zarker attended Pennsylvania Business College, Lancaster, Pa., the American Institute of Banking, and The Graduate School of Banking, from which latter institution he graduated in the class of 1938. Prior to entering the banking business, he was an industrial accountant and credit expert. Mr. Zarker is a frequent lecturer on financial topics before various New Jersey groups and organizations, has served as guest lecturer at the Scchool of Engineering of Princeton University, and is a frequent contributor of articles to various banking and financial publications.

The 1944 resident session of the G. B. S. at Rutgers University will open on June 19 and will be its tenth annual resident session. Thus far, 1,131 bank officers, who have pursued a course of study consisting of two years of extension work and attendance at three of the annual summer sessions at Rutgers, have graduated from the school.

Wartime Nat'l Foreign Trade Week May 21

In 1944, "Wartime National Foreign Trade Week" will be observed May 21-27, inclusive. In an announcement in the matter, E. L. Bacher, Manager of the Foreign Commerce Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States points out that exporters and importers, as the war progressess, are paying increasing attention to the effects of political and economic developments overseas upon their own business enterprises.

To assist in current discussion of such international developments a specially-prepared pamphlet has been made available, listing references to 1943 and 1944 published material on the following ten leading topics:

(1) Protection of private enterprise in world trade; (2) Elimination of wartime foreign trade controls; (3) Foreign commercial policy of the United States; (4) Western Hemisphere economic unity; (5) American-owned property and government - owned stocks abroad; (6) Post-war ocean transportation; (7) Post-war international aviation; (8) International monetary and exchange stabilization; (9) Foreign trade at the peace table; (10) The future of United States foreign trade.

It is noted that Monday of Foreign Trade Week is May 22, "National Maritime Day," established by Act of Congress. The Day is sponsored annually by the Propeller Club of the United States in commemoration of the sailing of the Steamship "Savannah" on the first trans-Atlantic roundtrip by steam-propelled vessel.

Items About Banks, Trust Companies

H. Adams Ashforth and George M. Bodman have been added to the board of trustees of the Bank of New York, according to an announcement on March 20 by J. C. Traphagen, President. Mr. Ashforth is President of Albert B. Ashforth, Inc., real estate. He is also a director of the First National Bank of Greenwich, Conn., and a trustee of the North River Savings Bank.

Mr. Bodman is a partner of the banking firm of Cyrus J. Lawrence & Sons. He is likewise a director of the Fidelity Union Trust Company of Newark, N. J., the Seaboard Surety Co. and of Milmine, Bodman & Co., Inc.

Harry E. Ward, Chairman of Irving Trust Co., of New York, has announced the appointment of William T. Pagen as an Assistant Secretary. Mr. Pagen has been in the Irving's Corporate Trust Division since he joined that institution in 1933. His banking career began in San Francisco. At the outbreak of World War I he left his position there with the Security Savings Bank to enlist in the Army Engineers with which he served overseas and was decorated with the Silver Star and Croix de Guerre. After demobilization he was made Trust Officer of the American National Bank, later the American Trust Co. (67) and in 1927 came to New York on its behalf to assist in the organization of an affiliate—the Pacific Trust Co.—which later united with the Manufacturers Trust Co. Mr. Pagen, who resides in Crestwood, Westchester County, is Vice Commander of John Dunbar Post, American Legion; named for the late John Dunbar—an Assistant Vice-President of Irving Trust Co.

It is announced that Eliot L. Ward has been elected to the board of trustees of the Harlem Savings Bank of New York. Mr. Ward is a partner in the commercial real estate firm of Vought, Campbell, Ward & Nichols.

Announcement is made by Allan Sproul, President, of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that the Phoenix Bank, Phoenix, N. Y., has become a member of the Federal Reserve System effective March 15; the admission to the reserve system of the Black Rock Bank & Trust Co., of Bridgeport, Conn., effective March 16, is also announced.

William L. DeBost, President of the Union Dime Savings Bank of New York, announces that the trustees of the bank have engaged the services of Herbert L. Williams, President of Herbert L. Williams, Inc., 52 William Street, for the Mortgage and Real Estate Department of the bank. Mr. Williams will assume his duties at the bank on April 1 and will be elected a Vice-President of the bank at the next meeting of the board. Mr. Williams has had wide experience in the real estate and mortgage field and is at present a director and Chairman of the Real Estate and Mortgage Committee of the Lawyers Title Corp. of New York.

The Brooklyn Trust Co. announced an increase of its cost-of-living allowance to all employees, excepting officers, to 10% per annum on salaries of less than $3,000 a year and 8% per annum on salaries of $3,000 and over, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1944, following receipt of approval of the increase by the War Labor Board and the United States Treasury Department. The company had previously paid a cost-of-living allowance of 6% on salaries up to $3,000 a year and 4% on salaries of $3,000 or more.

The New York State Banking Department reports the approval given to the Columbus Trust Co., of Newburgh, N. Y., to a certificate, whereby the capital stock will be increased from $100,000, consisting of 1,000 shares of the par value of $100 each, to $200,000, consisting of 2,000 shares of the par value of $100 each.

According to the Rochester, N. Y., "Times-Union" the directors of Genesee Valley Trust Co. recently declared a dividend of 25 cents a share on the common stock, payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 20. A similar payment was made Jan. 1 when the bank resumed dividends after a lapse of 11 years. John J. Jardine, President, said continued good earnings and strong financial position of the bank warranted the new payment.

At a meeting of the Directors of the State Street Trust Co., of Boston, on March 20, Alden C. Brett of Belmont, Treasurer of Hood Rubber Co., was elected to the Board.

Hooper S. Miles, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Baltimore National Bank, of Baltimore, Md., has been elected a director of the Eutaw Savings Bank. He fills the vacancy on the Board due to the death of Henry D. Harlan.

Planning to augment its capital funds by $3,375,000 through the issuance of common stock, the National City Bank of Cleveland announces, according to the Cleveland "Plain Dealer" of March 19, that holders of record March 25 will be given the right to subscribe in ratio of one share of new stock for each four held. The advices add that it is recommended to reduce the par of the stock from $20 to $16 a share and to issue 112,500 shares at $30 a share. The net effect of this will be to increase the surplus from $5,625,000 to $9,000,000, a sum equal to the capital stock outstanding. This would make capital, surplus and undivided profits $19,563,120 with reserves of $2,726,698 as of March 15. Proposal to increase capital will be submitted to stockholders April 5. It is likewise stated that arrangements have been made with an underwriting group headed by Harriman Ripley & Co., New York, and Merrill, Turben & Co., Cleveland, whereby the shares not subscribed by present stockholders will be purchased by the syndicate at $30 a share.

In its March 18 issue the "Plain Dealer" said:

"As a preliminary step in its plans to expand, the National City Bank, subject to court approval, is acquiring the control of Guardian Building, immediately east, it was announced yesterday.

"The National City is acquiring for $300,000 the 10,000 shares of stock of the New England Building, President Sidney B. Congdon states, as well as certain junior mortgages of the New England Co. which owns the Guardian Building. . . .

"The Guardian Building lobby and considerable space has been under lease by the National City since 1933 and is an important part of the banking quarters.

"Charles F. Carr, liquidator of the Guardian Trust Co., yesterday advertised for authority to sell the New England Building stock."

The American State Savings Bank, of Lansing, Mich., a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, has changed its title to the American State Bank.

The Farmers & Merchants State Bank, of Presho, S. D., a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, has changed its title to the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis announces that the Citizens Bank of Pacific, of Pacific, Mo., became a member of the Federal Reserve Bank on March 16. The new member was chartered in 1909. It has a capital of $30,000, surplus of $30,000, and total resources of $898,918. Its officers are: James Booth, President; L. P. Brennan, Vice-President; A. R. Leber, Treasurer, and R. B. Langenbacher, Cashier and Secretary. The addition of the Citizens Bank of Pacific brings the total membership of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis to 459.

Appointment of Henry J. Court as Assistant Vice-President in the banks and bankers department of Bank of America National Trust & Savings Assn. of San Francisco, at the Los Angeles headquarters has been announced by L. M. Giannini, President of the institution. Born in Spearfish, S. D., Mr. Court in June, 1918, located in Phoenix, Ariz., and entered the employ of the Phoenix National Bank; he later became Secretary and Treasurer of the Phoenix Savings Bank & Trust Co., filling that position from October, 1919, to January, 1934, returning then to the Phoenix National Bank as an Assistant Cashier. In December, 1937, he went to Los Angeles, joining the Bank of America as a business extension solicitor, and within a few weeks was appointed Assistant Cashier. After 2½ years in the business extension department he was given a special administration assignment. With the World War II, Mr. Court, in September, 1942, entered the armed forces. He served in the U. S. A. A. F. Finance Department at Santa Ana Air Base, was honorably discharged in May, 1943, and was reinstated by the bank as Assistant Cashier in the business extension department. In December, 1943, he was re-assigned to the banks and bankers department, and now is promoted to the rank of Assistant Vice-President.

Appointment of E. B. Durham as Supervisor of Alberta Branches with headquarters in Calgary is announced by the Royal Bank of Canada. Mr. Durham succeeds T. Lowe, who has been Supervisor since 1937 and is retiring on pension.

This is learned from the Montreal "Gazette" of March 15, which also says:

Mr. Durham has been Manager of the bank's main Winnipeg Branch for the past six years and is well known in Canadian financial circles, having served as Manager in both Eastern and Western Canada. He began his banking career at Sault Ste. Marie in 1906 with the Traders Bank of Canada, which was amalgamated with the Royal Bank of Canada in 1912. M. A. O'Hara will succeed Mr. Durham as Manager of Winnipeg Branch. Mr. O'Hara was formerly Manager of Winnipeg, Portage Avenue Branch.

Bruno R. Neumann With Nat'l Foremen's Inst.

Bruno R. Neumann, until recently Senior Economist with the Planning Division of the War Production Board, has joined the National Foremen's Institute, Inc., Deep River, Conn., as Labor Economist and Editorial Director. He will make his headquarters at the company's editorial office, 527 Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y. Mr. Neumann will head the Institute's research and consulting service on labor economics and labor relations. "The Foreman's Letter" and the "Executive's Labor Letter" will be under his editorial direction. Prior to his service with the War Production Board, Mr. Neumann was a member of the economic research staff of the National Association of Manufacturers. His experience abroad includes intimate familiarity with economic and labor relations problems in Great Britain and other European countries as well as the United States.

House Committee Approves Simplified Tax; Individuals Subject To New Normal Tax

Treasury Favorably Disposed To New Plan

Approval by the House Ways and Means Committee of a plan to simplify the tax statutes was announced on March 17, at which time it was stated that some 30,000,000 of the 50,000,000 taxpayers would thereby be relieved of the necessity of ever again computing tax returns, according to Associated Press advices from Washington March 18. Representatives Doughton (D.-N. C.), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; Carlson (R.-Kan.) and Robertson (D.-Va.) described the bill as a wonderful job and Senator George (D.-Ga.), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said that the Senate would act within ten days after it got the measure from the House. Termed a "streamliner," Mr. Doughton said that the plan made no substantial changes in present burdens for taxpayers—that nobody will be hurt much or helped much, as to the size of their tax liability. It is estimated that the plan would bring in some 150,000 new taxpayers, whose incomes are between $555 and $624 annually, and that the effects of the new exemptions and rates would be to funnel about $20,000,000 more annually into the Treasury. Further reporting as to the proposals in the plan approved by the House Committee, the Associated Press said:

The streamliner makes no change in the requirement that tax estimates and partial payments be made by this April 15 on 1944 income. If it becomes law, this is about what the bill would do:

1. Beginning next Jan. 1, the present 20% withholding system against wages and salaries would be revised to deduct the full tax liability for persons earning up to $5,000, numbering about 30,000,000.

2. There would be no change in amounts held out of pay envelopes and salary checks this year, and the Government itself would compute the taxes on 1944 income for those with wages and salaries under $5,000. The taxpayer, after the year end, simply would mail to the collector a copy of a withholding receipt, furnished by the employer, in place of the regular return, after writing on the back of the receipt the number of dependents and income other than wages and salary, if any.

The collector then would calculate the actual tax and bill the taxpayer for an additional amount or issue a refund check.

3. The Victory tax would be repealed and far-reaching adjustments made in the normal and surtax exemptions and rates.

4. There would be revisions of normal and surtax and exemptions provisions.

5. Of the 20,000,000 who still must file returns, it is estimated that 10,000,000 would use a simple tax table which will show their entire tax, and the remaining 10,000,000 would fill out returns in more detail but would be provided a simpler return than the present long form.

Some tax experts already were calling the bill a "baby bonus" measure, because it allows large accumulated exemptions for persons with large families.

The Committee outlined the simplification plan as follows:

For the surtax there will be a uniform exemption of $500 a person. Thus, the single person's exemption will be $500; married couples will have an exemption of $1,000, and the exemption for each dependent will be $500. Present exemptions are $500 for single persons, $1,200 for married couples and $350 for each child. However, the rates are adjusted under the new plan.

The present normal tax and surtax will be combined into a single surtax. A new normal tax of 3% will be imposed on each person whose net income exceeds $500.

All taxpayers with incomes up to $5,000 will be entitled to a standard deduction allowance of 10% of income. For those with incomes above $5,000, the standard deduction allowance will be $500. Taxpayers whose actual deductions exceed the standard allowance may secure the benefit of their actual deductions by listing them in detail.

A new simplified tax table will be provided for the use of taxpayers with incomes below $5,000, regardless of the source of their incomes.

The Committee gave a formal explanation of the plan as follows:

"The new plan will provide a real short-cut for about 30 million wage and salary earners.

"All those earning up to $5,000 and receiving not more than $100 from sources not subject to withholding will be permitted to file a copy of a withholding receipt, furnished by the employer, in place of the regular tax return. These taxpayers will list their dependents on the reverse side of this receipt and enter the amount of 'other income,' if any.

"They will then sign the receipt and mail it to the local tax collector, without any payment. The collector will calculate the tax and where necessary will either bill the taxpayer for additional payment or issue a refund check.

"The 20 million persons who will continue to file regular returns will also benefit from simplification. If their income from all sources is not over $5,000 and their deductions are not over 10% of income, they can use the simple one-page tax table to determine their tax. Even for the taxpayer who cannot use the tax table, the new form will be simpler than the present long form."

The tax plan approved on Mar. 17 by the House Ways and Means Committee, was described by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau on March 18 as "well conceived and intelligently planned." His statement said:

"The Ways and Means Committee, under the able leadership of Congressman Doughton, has done a great piece of work. It is a great job not only because it is going to provide welcome relief for the taxpayer—relief to which the taxpayer certainly is entitled — but because the job of formulating a simplification bill was done with such dispatch and without confusion of any sort.

"My people here in the Treasury have spoken highly of the cooperation they were given by the Committee's Tax Experts. We contributed the best we had, and so did the Committee Experts. So did the Committee. The result is a well-conceived and intelligently planned recommendation for Congress that will prove a great boon to the country."

It was observed by the Associated Press that while Mr. Morgenthau's statement showed that while the Administration and Congress might be at odds on the amount of taxes, there was harmony on how to collect them.

A reference to the task of tax simplification undertaken by the House Ways and Means Committee appeared in our issue of Mar. 9, page 1001.